

THE TIMES

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WEEKDAY

Santer pledges clean-up of EU sleaze

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

All European Union staff are to be bound by a code of conduct designed to curb corruption, nepotism and mismanagement under reforms accepted by Jacques Santer yesterday to avoid censure and the dismissal of all European Commissioners.

The Commission President also accepted a proposal from the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder for a high-level review of the Commission's workings by the Parliament and member states.

The concessions meant that the prospects of a censure motion receded, but MEPs' anger over the record of individual commissioners could still bring a damaging vote against Edith Cresson of France and Manuel Marín of Spain.

While the Parliament was far from satisfied with Mr Santer's failure to show more contrition, he appeared to have answered the main demands of the two big parliamentary groups, the Socialists and the centre-right European People's party. Rebels in each group are nevertheless expected to call for censure, as are the Greens and a handful of other groups, but they are unlikely to muster the necessary two-thirds majority.

The deal offered by Mr Santer gave all the signs of a prior accord with the leaders of the big parties. With all 19 commissioners around him, he acknowledged the gravity of the Parliament's confidence vote. "I am ready to bear my share of the responsibility for this," he said, but he pleaded that the Commission had been "victim of its own policy of transparency" in pursuing abuses.

Pauline Green, the British Labour MEP who leads the Socialists, deplored the "culture of nepotism, patronage and financial gain" that prevailed in parts of the Commission. "This must be dealt with now," she said.

Mrs Green wanted details of the independent review this

week and a timetable by March for negotiations on greater parliamentary involvement in Commission reform. In that case, she would vote against censure, she said. "The majority in my group wants the Commission to continue its work. Only an independent investigation will allow the Commission to regain confidence."

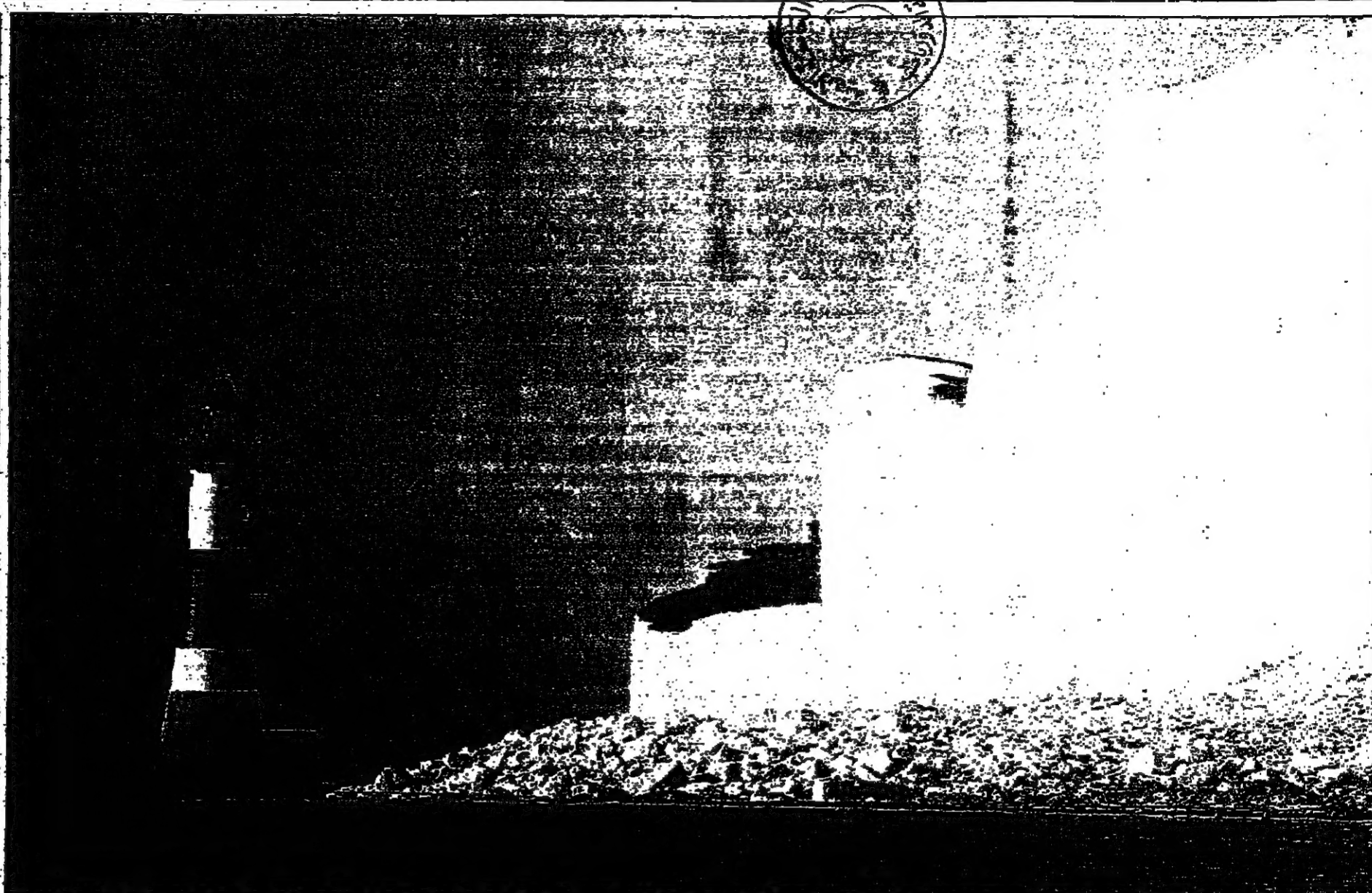
Wilfried Martens, the Belgian leader of the PSE, attacked "the rot in terms of irregularities, secrecy, fraud and petty corruption", and all the main groups attacked the Commission for "punishing Paul van Buitenen, the Dutch, officials who blew the whistle on fraud last month."

Leading the charge for sacking the whole commission, Magda Alvoet, the Green leader, said it was time for the executive to take political responsibility for years of mismanagement. "We need a strong Commission to give strength to Europe," she said.

The MEPs' reluctance to oust the Commission is strongly backed by member Governments, which fear paralysis in the EU machine. The biggest danger for the Commission is a strong vote for a Liberal motion of no confidence in the French and Spanish commissioners, who have been most closely linked with multimillion-pound abuses in the administration of EU programmes. Although no device exists for the parliament to sack commissioners, the MEPs are hoping to shame the pair into resignation.

Mrs Cresson, however, delivered an angry denial of any abuses under her responsibility for spending on vocational training and senior Marin, who is in charge of overseas development, said: "Never in my 14 years at the European Commission have I ever had anything to do with fraud, corruption or covering it up."

Make or break, page 11



The lighthouse at Beachy Head in Eastbourne, Sussex, yesterday, connected to land after probably Britain's biggest single loss of coastline in living memory

Beachy Head cliff crashes into the sea

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

SAFETY experts were yesterday examining the coastal beauty spot at Beachy Head after a section of rockface crashed into the sea in what could be Britain's biggest single loss of coastline in living memory.

The unmanned Beachy Head lighthouse has been effectively rejoined to the Sussex coast after thousands of tonnes of chalk fell 500ft into the sea at the weekend, filling in a popular 100-yard sea channel used extensively by tourists.

Experts believe the collapse may have been caused by water entering the chalk rock and expanding in volume on freezing, forcing the cliff to crumble. Beachy Head has the dubious distinction of being one of the world's most popular suicide spots. Last year more people jumped off it than San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

Coastguards were last night warning people to keep their distance from the edge as officials from Eastbourne Council tried to establish how stable the remaining cliff face was.

"It's a major change to the coastline," said one. It only takes one slip and you don't get a second chance."

The landslide was spotted over three miles out to sea by astonished lifeboat crew members from Eastbourne who estimate that a 50ft deep slab of cliff face fell away along a 200-yard stretch.

Eddie Buckland, a lifeboatman, said: "It's colossal. It's fallen down right out to the lighthouse and up to near the top of the stairs. The last big fall was about 15 to 20 years ago at the nudist beach about 600 yards east. But that's tiny compared to this one. It's got to go out over 100 yards."

Mark Sawyer, 36, a fellow crewman, said: "I have never seen anything like this before, none of us have. We were three and a half miles out to sea when we saw it and we could see it clearly."

He added: "It really is massive. I've been with the lifeboat crew for eight years and I've been fishing there since I was eight years old and I've never seen a fall of that size."

The Environment Agency, which is not responsible for cliffs but is responsible for beaches, was yesterday keeping a close eye on Beachy Head after confirming the enormity of the latest collapse. Ray Kemp, for the agency, said it was difficult to quantify, but it was certainly the largest by far in the area and probably the largest yet in Britain.

"Hundreds upon thousands of tonnes have gone. Chunks have been falling off Beachy Head for ages but never anything like the size of this," he said. Wave height in the Atlantic had increased by 10 per cent in the past decade and the sea was hitting the coastline harder.

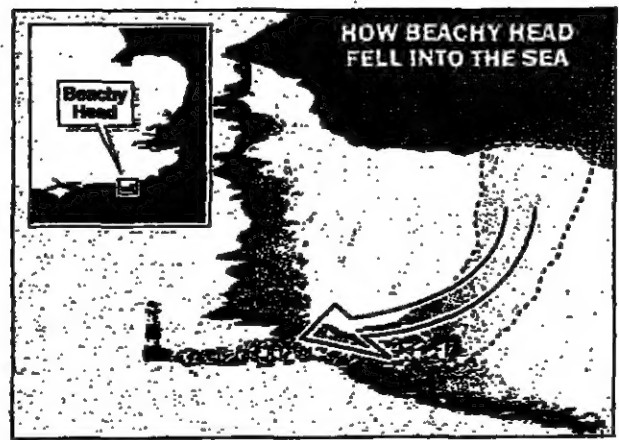
"One minute we are in a drought situation and then the chalk is sodden. In eight months out of 12 we have had above average rainfall. The coastline is increasingly vulnerable as climate change starts to bite. What is happening is symptomatic of a whole range of circumstances. In my grandmother's time you could walk around Beachy Head, but that is impossible now."

The latest collapse provides fresh evidence of how many

coastal landmarks and properties around Britain are under threat from coastal erosion. In 1994 Holbeck Hall Hotel in Scarborough fell into the North Sea. Ten villages on a 40-mile stretch in Humberside are threatened with being abandoned as the North Sea continues to eat up the coastline at an estimated rate of 11 yards a year. Coastal erosion is also becoming a serious problem in eastern and south-

ern England, with sea levels expected to rise by up to 20in over the next 50 years.

Over the years stormy seas have also ravaged chalk cliffs along South Down's coastline, leaving several homes perilously close to tumbling into the sea. The erosion has accelerated work to save the Belle Tout, a neighbouring lighthouse and the only permanently inhabited former lighthouse in Britain.



HOW BEACHY HEAD FELL INTO THE SEA

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Blair makes NHS key to new Labour relaunch

BY ROLAND WATSON, JILL SHERMAN AND IAN MURRAY

TONY BLAIR yesterday used the beleaguered health service as a means of reasserting the Government's authority and to deflect attention from the recent tide of personality-driven rifts and scandals.

On the first day of the new parliamentary term, the Prime Minister sanctioned an unexpected Commons statement from Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, after a fortnight that has seen emergency wards stretched to the limit.

Mr Dobson fell short of making any new announcements, but he repeated his hope that the Government would be able to fund this year's pay review body recommendations for nurses' pay in full. These could be as much as 10 per cent for the lowest paid nurses, in an attempt to solve the recruitment crisis.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in a speech to businessmen in Edinburgh, took up the theme. Hoping to raise mo-

rale, he reaffirmed that ministers wanted to lift the starting pay of nurses and to reform the health service pay structure so that nurses enjoyed "modern, fair and flexible employment".

Mr Brown said: "Specifically we have called for the review body to take into account the special circumstances of nurses, particularly nurses starting out in the NHS."

Mr Dobson used his Com-

mons appearance to thank NHS staff for their recent efforts. However, he told MPs that the winter crisis, fuelled by flu victims turning up at casualty departments, could worsen under a prolonged spell of icy weather.

Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, accused him of complacency, saying that nothing in his statement would make the "slightest bit of difference to those now lying on trolleys in fear, in pain, waiting for treatment".

The Liberal Democrats joined the Opposition in urging the Government to end its headline policy of cutting waiting lists. Simon Hughes, the party's health spokesman, said the "obsession" was jeopardising the quality of treatment throughout the NHS.

Mr Dobson was asked repeatedly about the extent to which the treatment of routine waiting list cases was causing



Yemen prepares to charge Britons

BY JAMES LANDALE AND DANIEL MCGRORY

FIVE Britons detained in Yemen on suspicion of plotting terrorist outrages are likely to be charged within 48 hours, Rob Cook told MPs yesterday.

The Foreign Secretary said that he had obtained assurances from the Yemeni Prime Minister that the men would have access to legal advice. British diplomats had seen four of them, but had been barred from seeing the fifth because he had dual British-Yemeni nationality. He would, however, be granted consular access within 36 hours.

Mr Cook also said that a police expert with experience in hostage negotiations was to be appointed to advise the Foreign Office and foreign governments on their handling of host-taking.

He spoke as Yemeni ministers repeated their promise not to use force to try to free John Brooke, an oilworker from Norwich who was kidnapped on Saturday by tribesmen de-

manding the release of a comrade accused of murder.

While it was feared that Mr Brooke could be held captive for weeks, security chiefs were investigating the possible involvement of a London group headed by a Muslim cleric, known as Abu Hamza, who preaches at a mosque in Finsbury Park, north London, in an alleged plot to blow up British targets on Aden on Christmas Day.

One of the five Britons being held has allegedly confessed that he was paid \$2,000 to bomb the British consulate, the Anglican church and Aden's biggest hotel.

The man, Mohsen Ghailan — who has the same name as the stepson of the London-based Muslim cleric — also allegedly admitted meeting Abu Hassan, the leader of the gang which abducted 16 western tourists before Christmas.

Mosque training, page 3

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TODAY ON PAGE 16

The opinion formers....
Challenging minds in the changing Times



Michael Gove
'Newspapers are not yet as savage as in the 18th century. Pity.'



Libby Purves
'One can occasionally, pass out hugging a bottle of brandy'



Washington explained by the women who know the Clinton White House
Bronwen Maddox



The Government's relaunch torpedoed by the man who sees beyond the spin
Simon Jenkins



The greatest threat we face in 1999 by the Sage of Gledewood
Alan Coren

Mandelson could be back before election

By Roland Watson and Jill Sherman

PETER MANDELSON could be back in the Cabinet before the end of next year, Downing Street insiders believe.

The timing of such a return to the frontline would allow the former Trade Secretary to perform a high-profile role in the next election campaign.

But the speed of his rehabilitation would alarm many Labour MPs who believe he should remain out of the limelight for the rest of this Parliament.

Tony Blair will be warned tomorrow by senior backbenchers that it would "misjudge the mood" for Mr Mandelson to be offered a good track back to high office after his resignation over his £373,000 home loan from Geoffrey Robinson.

"It would be too soon. Tony needs to keep his distance from him for a good while yet," one senior Labour MP said.

There has already been con-

cern expressed that Mr Mandelson represented Mr Blair at a meeting last week with one of Gerhard Schröder's ministers to discuss policy-making.

However, Mr Blair is said by friends to see nothing wrong with bringing Mr Mandelson back during the course of next year. Realistically that would either be in a summer reshuffle, in about 18 months, or in an autumn reshuffle gearing up for an early election in the spring of 2001.

One option would be to bring him back not into the Cabinet but as a middle-ranking minister, possibly with responsibility for Europe.

Friends said yesterday that as well as being shocked and bemused by Mr Mandelson's error, Mr Blair has also been angered by the way his friend had let him down. But the pair have been in regular contact since his resignation, including speaking while Mr Blair



Mandelson: insiders predict Europe role

was on holiday in the Seychelles.

In his Sunday interview with Sir David Frost, Mr Blair pointedly left open the door to the MP for Harrogate, saying, "the future will look after itself".

MPs also plan to confront Mr Blair over the operation of ministerial spin-doctors, using the departure of Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's colourful

press secretary, to warn the Prime Minister that the setting of old scores between Labour's rival factions has to stop.

One senior Labour MP spoke yesterday of the need to avoid a "Thatcher/Lawson situation", a clear warning to Mr Blair to ensure his camp-follower and those of the Chancellor stop their feuding.

Clive Soley, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said last night that after the recent episodes there had to be "a line underneath all that".

He said: "This business of personal feuds between people and people getting into the sort of situation that Peter got into must be put behind us. It has happened now but it must not happen again."

There was support for Rob-in Cook among Labour MPs after the serialisation of his ex-wife's book. MPs said they did not believe her assertion that Mr Cook had been a heavy drinker in the late 1980s.

"Robin Cook is no George Brown," said one MP, a reference to Labour's Foreign Secretary during the 1960s whose drinking habits were notorious and embarrassing to the party.

Several MPs suggested that the Government had been seriously damaged during the past few weeks but stressed that the guilty culprits were not leftwingers nor Old Labour MPs, but modernisers.

"The Parliamentary Labour Party has kept quiet throughout this period. The finger cannot be pointed at us for what has happened over Christmas," said one MP.

Another leftwinger said almost gleefully: "The Campaign group has not been responsible for any of this. It is the rightwingers, new Labour, that have brought this upon themselves."

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

Straw keeps secrets code

JACK STRAW is to water down plans to end secrecy in government. He has decided to remove the word "substantial" from the harm test which would decide disclosure of documents to the public. The change is to be included in the draft Freedom of Information Bill next month.

A "substantial harm" test would have given Britain the most open freedom of information laws in the world and was set out in last summer's White Paper after a deal between the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, and

David Clark, then Public Services Minister. But Mr Straw — who was given charge of drafting the Bill after Dr Clark was sacked from the Cabinet — was concerned that it could compromise police and intelligence work and assist criminal activities.

However, Mr Straw is willing to offer a compromise giving the public a greater "right to know" about the law enforcement agencies including police, customs, and environmental inspectors. Only information relating to prosecutions and investigations

would be barred. Mr Straw has asked officials to draw up separate definitions of harm for national security, defence and international relations; law enforcement; personal privacy; commercial confidentiality; safety of the individual, the public and the environment; information supplied in confidence; and official advice to ministers.

Maurice Frankel, director of the Campaign for the Freedom of Information, said last night: "It is clear to me that the substantial harm test is being whittled away."



Nurses struggle with a heavy workload at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary

NHS key to relaunch

Continued from page 1
the backlog of emergency cases, but declined to answer. Ministers are expected to receive the recommendations of the medical pay review bodies in the next few days.

Although City forecasts show the Government could afford an above-average pay rise for nurses, Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, said that any rise would have to be gradual over three or four years.

"A more generous settle-

ment this year would have very serious implications for the NHS," he said. "There will be precious little left of the Government's modernisation fund if nurses are given a big pay rise."

However, Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said that even a 5 per cent rise would not make an impact on the nursing shortage.

"Just tomorrow is an unacceptable promise. It is nurse shortages that have led to this year's crisis in the NHS. We

cannot provide good patient care when we are short of some 12,000 nurses. A good pay rise would boost numbers immediately."

In what was seen as a relaunch of New Labour, the Government also made clear that it would use this week to make a number of policy announcements and keynote speeches in a bid to get its modernising agenda back on track.

Michael Gove, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Kitemark register for nanny agencies

By Alexandra Freeman
Social Affairs Correspondent

A NEW national register for private nanny agencies is to be announced by the Government today as part of package of measures designed to stamp out rogue operators who fail to carry out proper checks on prospective employees.

The new measures, to be announced by the Education Minister, Margaret Hodge, include the introduction of the first kitemark system of accreditation for nanny agencies.

Only agencies that undertake to conduct a face-to-face interview with nannies will qualify for a kitemark and for inclusion on the register. The register will be voluntary initially, but may be made compulsory in the future.

The measures follow the Louise Woodward trial in America and a number of high-profile court cases in Britain in which children have died while being cared for by nannies or childminders.

Under the new measures, the Department of Trade and Industry will be given stronger powers to close any agency found not to have properly vetted prospective nannies.

The Government will also produce a leaflet for parents advising them what they should look out for when employing a nanny and what kind of questions to ask a prospective nanny.

Local authorities will be issued with new good practice guidelines on vetting childcare workers. In future all childminders will be asked to provide a copy of their birth and marriage certificates, to enable police checks to be carried out on them under their maiden and married names.

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General Howard rides to the rescue of wounded enemy

With enemies like these, who needs friends? Michael Howard yesterday executed a daring rescue of the beleaguered Robin Cook.

Just when Cook's and the Government's domestic position looked hopeless — ambushed, cornered and media-bashed — who should come riding over the horizon to save them? Hooray! It was the Conservative Party, led by General Howard.

Is it any longer true that ministers are safest when the Commons is in recess? By the end of the holiday this weekend, things had looked bleak for the Foreign Secretary. An aggrieved ex-wife had laid him in a savage book.

The press had been merciless. Spinning through the public mind were images of the elfin Mr Cook with brandy bottle, comatose on a hotel floor; tales of fear and loathing in Cabinet; and flights of sexual fancy that took Mr Cook's wispy beard to pillows hither-to undreamed of. Poor Cook. Whence the next blow?

From the Tories' Michael

Howard. Phew. Immediately, sympathy switched back to Cook. The testimony of a scorned woman bent on revenge may be Gospel in the Britain of 1999 — but the evidence of the Conservative Party? Ah, unreliable. Who believes them? Don't they have an axe to grind? Unlike Margaret Cook, of course.

Cook spoke well on the Yemeni problems, but the mood behind him seemed subdued. In the clearest sign yet that new Labour's honeymoon is over, there was only one woman on the government benches in primary colours. Eleven — more than half — wore black.

Faces, male and female, were impassive. The Foreign Secretary was heard in silence and afterwards feebly cheered. If this was Cook's "fightback" then the fighter was missing crowd-approval.

Then Michael Howard rose, looking sinister, but I repeat

myself. Reporters dropped their pencils just because their newspapers were critical of Labour did not mean they wanted to be associated with this Tory lot.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary began harmlessly, with a few inquiries into what is, for a few families in Britain, the most heartbreaking story. He soon forgot this. New Year's goodwill ran out before he was halfway round the block. Within minutes he was using the Yemen as a stick with which to beat the Government's handling of the Northern Ireland peace process, which he said had involved the release, too early, of convicted terrorists.

There were angry cries of Shame! Cheap! and Disgraceful! from the Labour benches. Whatever their doubts about Mr Cook, this, they felt, was contemptible.

Then Howard began a personal attack on Cook's competence in office. With four hostages killed in the Yemen, and one still kidnapped, this was not the moment, irritation of the Labour side turned to rage. Howard had accomplished the unlikely feat of turning the villain of Margaret Cook's memoir into an object of Commons sympathy.

Cook perked up. With brisk confidence he answered the questions that followed. His recovery had begun.

Then, just as his skies began to clear, who should come galloping over the horizon? The maverick leftwinger and scourge of Tony Blair's bombing of Iraq: George Galloway (Lab, Glasgow, Hillhead). And — on no! — Galloway was supporting Cook.

The last time Mr Galloway hit the front page of *The Sun* was 12 years ago, when claims surfaced about a torrid episode involving women on the Greek island of Mykonos. The headline was "Gorgeous George Bonked for Britain".

And now the Scot was praising Robin Cook — "masterful" he gushed. With friends like these, who needs enemies?

Teachers back Blunkett's old-style numeracy hour

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

TEACHERS' leaders yesterday welcomed a £55 million drive to improve children's numeracy through the daily use of multiplication tables and other traditional methods, but Tories said that the Government should only focus on the worst-performing schools.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, confirmed the introduction of a numeracy hour in primary schools from next September after children involved in pilot projects recorded better results than their peers. Some made an extra 16 months' progress in two years. The daily mathematics lessons of between 45 minutes and an hour will be less closely prescribed than those intro-

duced for literacy last September. The numeracy drive is intended to meet the Government's target of 75 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching their expected level in mathematics. Every school will have its own target, reflecting the ability of its intake.

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, welcomed the scheme, but said: "Politicians, including many from the Labour Party, were prominent among those groups of people, pontificating at a very safe distance from the classroom, who somehow managed to persuade many

teachers in the 1960s and 70s to give up tried and tested traditional methods." Kay Driver, the general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, said: "The Government appears to have done its own sums and produced a formula which will improve basic standards for pupils."

But David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, said that there was no need for a national scheme. "Good schools already doing well don't need the distraction of being told how to teach, and bad schools won't have enough support to achieve the improvement they need," he said.

Leading article, page 17

Liverpool alarm at DUP move

By Russell Jenkins

POLITICAL leaders in Liverpool gave warning yesterday that the establishment of a branch of the Democratic Unionist Party in the area could reopen old sectarian wounds.

The prospect of the DUP fielding candidates in the city council elections in May dismayed Mike Storey, the council's Liberal Democrat leader, and also the opposition parties and the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches — whose leaders in the area have long campaigned for tolerance.

A local DUP spokesman said it was setting up a branch because of "unprecedented levels of interest" in Unionism from people in the region.

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Whippet breeding pair were stabbed to death

Group accused of Yemen plot link spreads message on Internet, write Adrian Lee and Stephen Farrell

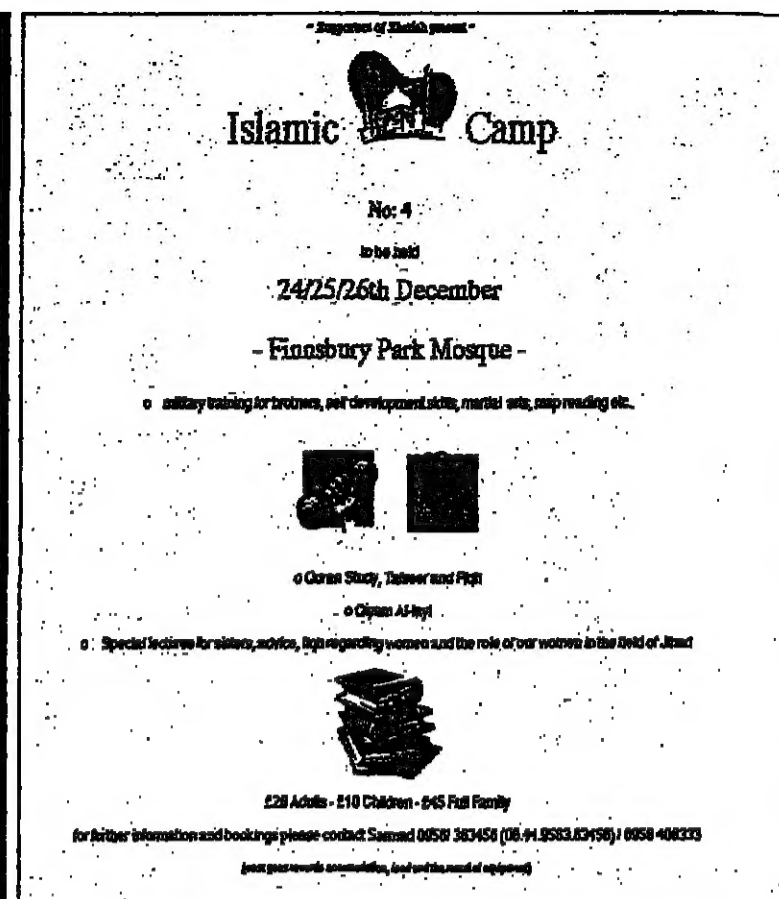
Yesterday Mr Hamza, 41, accused the Yemeni authorities of trying to blacken his name. He confirmed that the name of one of those arrested, Mohsen Ghallam, matched that of his stepson, but said that it was also possible that someone had used his documents and those of another suspect, Sarmad Ahmed, to implicate them both in the plot.

Mr Hamza's natural son, Mohammed Kaimel Mustapha, 17, is believed to be in Yemen, where he is wanted by



Abu Hamza and the Internet advertisement for the camp, which he says was arranged to distract young men from Christmas television

"He went out to Yemen on his own and I think what's happened is that, being in an Arab country, you tend to listen out for English-speaking people and that's what my hus-



Held captive in Yemen: Ghulam Hussein, Shahid Butt, Sarmad Ahmed and Malik Nassar Harbani

No payout over squirrel's visit

BY SUE LAPPEMAN

A RETIRED couple returned to their house after a three-day holiday to find that their house had been ransacked, causing damage amounting to £5,000.

Mr Desmond and Veronica Green's house was strewn with broken crockery, pictures had been pulled down and the curtains were hanging in ribbons.

But their insurance company has refused to pay for the damage because the culprit — which probably fell down a chimney — was a squirrel. The company says that it does not cover damage by most animals.

Mr Green, 71, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, said: "It is bad enough having such a strange thing happen to you, the damage the squirrel has caused is amazing. But for your insurance company to say there is nothing it can do is ridiculous."

A neighbour came face-to-face with the intruder after the couple's alarm went off while

they were in London visiting their daughter.

Mr Green said: "The squirrels were taken and then bolted further into the house. After a lengthy struggle and a lot of chasing he managed to usher the animal out of the house. There was stuff everywhere, broken china in the hall and on the stairs, ripped picture frames on the floor, an antique chair was attacked."

A spokesman for the insurers, Saga, said that while its cover excluded damage by most animals the company was considering amending its policy in future.

Mr Green said: "The matter is now in the hands of my solicitor, who is seeing if there have been any other cases like it."

Dave Dawson, of the London Ecology Unit, said squirrels were not known as household pests but they could cause minor damage by nesting in lofts. But he added: "Any animal will go crazy if it thinks it is cornered."

BY ALEX O'CONNELL

ROBBIE WILLIAMS last night rounded off a year in which he was transformed from also-ran to superstar with a record number of nominations at the Brit Awards.

The former member of the defunct boy band Take That is up for a dozen awards including Best Single for *Angels* and *Millennium*, a song he has said he dislikes.

Williams, who is engaged to the All Saint singer Nicole Appleton, has also been nominated for Best British Male, Best Album for *I've Been Expecting You* and for two entries in Best British Video.

Trailing him with five nominations are Massive Attack, Gomez, Catatonia, the Manic Street Preachers and Fat Boy Slim each received three nominations.

The *Eurythmics* are to receive next year's award for Outstanding Contribution to British Music at the ceremony on February 16.

John Carr on an unhappy ending to romance of couple parted by war



Angeliki Stratiou and Luigi Surace after 53 years apart

At her funeral yesterday, relatives described how hours before her death Signorina Stratigou received two postcards from Signor Strace ending with the phrase "Amore Sempre"; or eternal love. Doctors said she suffered a stroke after kidney

failure. "Ti Aspetto Con Grande Amore" (I await you with great love) were reportedly her last words to Signor Surace, 81, who has unwell at his home in Reggio Calabria, southern Italy. His relatives told Greek television that he

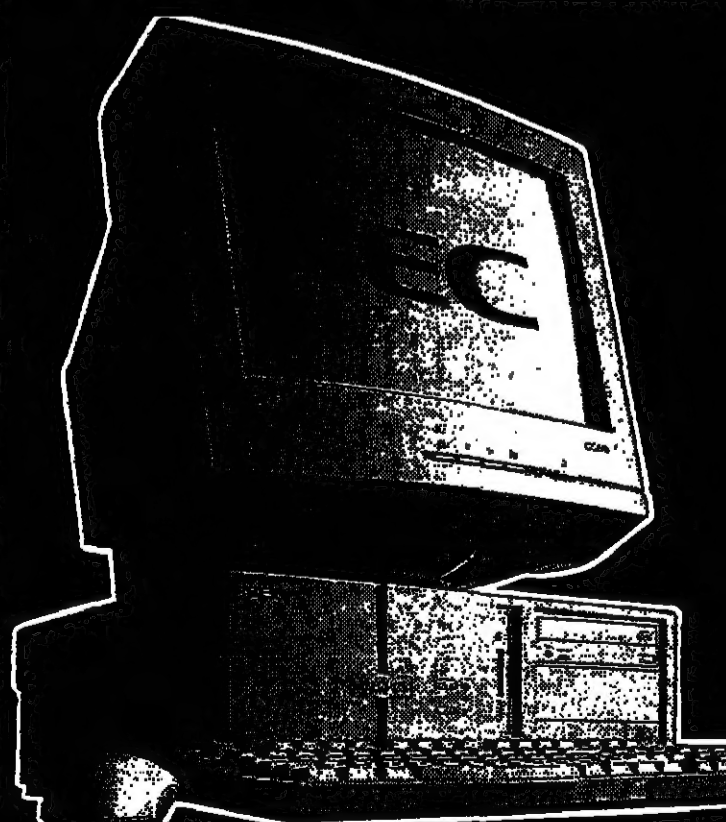
The two were brought together after a 53-year separation by reporters on Skai, a television network, after Signor Surace's letters to his love were repeatedly re-

nured. The couple met in 1941, when Axis forces overran Sicily. Signorina Straigo, a Sicilian, remembered Luigi as a handsome non-commissioned officer who wooed her with food from the Italian Army's stores when hundreds of Greeks were dying of starvation. When those Italian soldiers who survived German massacres had to leave, Signor Straigo asked for her hand. But Signorina Straigo, fearing for her reputation if she married an Italian, refused.

His first letters to his wartime love apparently having got nowhere, Signor Straigo's thoughts turned again to her after his wife died in 1995. He wrote to Patra City Council, which notified Stazi TV. Reporters arranged the couple's reunion last February.

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A ten-year-old British boy has become the youngest chess player to qualify for a national championship final (Elizabeth Judge writes).

Murugan Thiruchelvam, above, qualified for the British Chess Championship after taking second place in the Fulprint York Open with four wins and a draw from five games. He has broken the world record by more than a year.

Nigel Short, a grandmaster, currently ranked second in the country and the British world title challenger.

Boy's pieces of history

qualified for the championship when he was 11. Murugan, from New Malden, southwest London, will now compete for the Smith and Williamson British Championship in August.

The feat was Murugan's fourth world record. At the age of six, he became the youngest tournament winner. Last October he became the

youngest person to draw with a grandmaster and to achieve a rating equivalent to that of an international master's. In 1997, within a few months, he won the British Under-8s Chess Championship, the England Under-11 and London Under-12 titles.

Grete White, the British Chess Federation manager, said: "This is very

exciting and we look forward to seeing even higher performances. He is regarded as an outstanding prospect, as well as a level-headed child."

Murugan began playing chess when he was three after seeing his brother playing on a computer. Neither his father, Kandiah, nor his mother, Shanika, who came to Britain from Sri Lanka 20 years ago, play. His mother said: "He really is a normal boy, who supports Manchester United and likes computer games, but also happens to be good at chess."

Knox's spirit could save MSPs

BY JASON ALLARDYCE
SCOTTISH POLITICAL
REPORTER

POLITICIANS could be reduced to smuggling beer into Scotland's first parliament in 300 years to get round an alcohol ban, a senior candidate claimed last night.

Angus Robertson, who will be standing for the Scottish National Party, described the prohibition that will apply during the first two years of the administration as "ridiculous".

The rule was imposed by the Church of Scotland, which is allowing Assembly Hall, the base for its annual general assembly, to be used as the par-

liament's temporary home until a purpose-built complex at Holyrood is ready in 2001.

At Westminster, much of the real business is conducted in six bars and function rooms with bars. Several restaurants are also licensed to serve alcohol, and drink costs about two thirds of the commercial rate.

Mr Robertson, 29, a Guinness drinker who has worked as a journalist all over Europe, said: "This will be the first parliament in the western world without a bar. You can imagine all these Members of the Scottish Parliament walking about with plastic bags containing lager cans."

Dennis Canavan, the La-

bour MP who is standing as an independent in Falkirk after being rejected as an official Labour candidate, was equally unimpressed. An Edinburgh drinker in his student days, Mr Canavan suggested that MPs could perhaps get around the problem by naming the bar after John Knox, a hardline preacher in the Scottish Reformation who lived in the capital.

"Maybe the Church could be persuaded to give us a special dispensation to have a temporary bar which we could call John Knox's pulpit where we could get regular spiritual refreshment."

A Church of Scotland

spokesman said it was normal to impose a prohibition on the sale and supply of alcohol in church buildings on the basis that this was inappropriate. He suggested, however, that it might be acceptable for Ministers to provide alcohol at receptions and for MSPs to have a tippie after a day of debating.

A spokesman for the Scottish Office said that the plans for the Holyrood building included a bar and dining areas may also be licensed.

In the meantime, Edinburgh's pubs are bracing themselves for a mass invasion by the 129 MSPs and their staff, and are already applying for late licences.



Lamprey: shows that the river is cleaner

Welcome back to an ugly vampire

BY SIMON DE BRUELLES

IT IS not usually one of nature's most pleasing sights, but yesterday an ugly marine vampire was being welcomed to a Welsh river. Widespread findings of lamprey on the Usk are an indication that conservation work is paying off.

The lamprey, once considered a delicacy by royalty, needs clean, healthy water to thrive. The fish was discovered at nearly 40 sites on the river in South Wales.

The sea lamprey, the largest of the three main varieties, returns to the river of its birth to spawn and can grow to 4ft in length and 5.5lb in weight. Unlike other fish, it has no scales or jaws and is covered in a thick layer of protective mucus. The elusive parasites attach themselves to sea prey and drain their blood.

The migratory fish have been in long-term decline in many rivers because access to spawning grounds has been blocked by dams, weirs and barrages. The lampreys found by the survey were mainly in their larval form in which they resemble earthworms.

Only when the fish is fully grown will it migrate downstream in search of suitable prey. Tristan Hamon-Ellis, freshwater ecologist for the Countryside Council for Wales, said: "They mainly feed at sea on whatever is available. They tend not to attack fresh-water fish."

The death of Henry I in Normandy in 1135 was blamed on his eating surfeit of lampreys. They are said to be best stewed with wine.

The Great Lakes of Canada are also suffering a surfeit of lampreys as an invasion of the sea-going variety is destroying stocks of native fish. Unlike most species of marine fish, which have co-evolved with the lamprey, those in the Great Lakes had not encountered them before. The result has been a vampiric massacre that has cost the fishing industry millions in lost catches.

CORRECTION

An article, Organic farming takes root in the South (January 8), should have explained that the research was done by Ruth Arber, of Coventry University, under the supervision of Professor Brian Bily.

Inmates praise tough regime at 'boot camp'

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

OFFENDERS at the only "boot camp" in England and Wales have praised the tough regime of drill and physical exercise provided there, according to an inspection report published today.

The young inmates even complained that they were bored at weekends when no organised activities were provided by the special unit at Thorn Cross young offender institution at Warrington, Cheshire. They told Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, that the rigorous 16-hour daily regime was better than at any other prison institution in the country.

They found the six-month programme "positive, constructive but hard". It combines strenuous physical activity with the teaching of social and life skills and vocational training in work such as plastering, catering and motor mechanics.

Sir David's report praises the institution and particularly the High Intensity Training Unit - the part of Thorn Cross that has been dubbed a "boot camp". He praised the integration of academic and physical education into the daily programme, and the use of challenging outdoor pursuits and of work in the community.

His report says prisoners are subjected to a very long and physically demanding day, which starts at 6am with

the cleaning of the unit, inspections and drill. They continue with formal activities, including up to four hours' physical education a day, until 8.30pm. Lights are put out at 10pm.

Sir David says: "Young prisoners' rooms were inspected daily and they were expected to maintain military-style standards with kit arranged in the prescribed way and highly polished boots."

Young prisoners also took responsibility for cleaning the whole unit and jobs were rotated so that all were involved. Young prisoners clearly took a great deal of pride in this area of their work and the standard of cleanliness was the highest we have seen in a prison.

"Drill training" was an important element of the regime and used to encourage discipline, team spirit and confidence. "At the weekends there was a full parade with a governor's inspection. Young prisoners were provided with a 'best' uniform for such occasions, which they also wore when on visits. Physical education was maintained throughout the programme with all young prisoners completing at least one session daily," the report says.

The outdoor pursuits course was particularly physically demanding, and encouraged leadership and teamwork in a harsh environment. Inmates not on the high-intensity programme were en-

vious of those who were. They complained that those in the "boot camp" got the best of everything.

The report said that 218 of 228 inmates had joined the special unit, but only 161 had successfully completed all stages. Of 161 who failed to do so because they absconded or did not keep to the strict conditions under which they worked in the community.

Sir David found the high-intensity programme one of the most exciting developments in the Prison Service. "It was an inspiring attempt to create a whole regime... young prisoners completing the course had a real opportunity to benefit from the experience of being in prison, something far removed from the often very destructive nature of prison life."

A second boot camp, run by the Army at the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, Essex, was closed last year after 12 months because the Government said the results did not warrant the £30,000 a year it cost per inmate. The findings of a study of the Colchester experiment have not yet been published.

An evaluation of the most and effectiveness of the experiment at Thorn Cross in preventing reoffending is to be published this summer.

Ramsbotham interview, page 15

Ashworth inquiry backs drugs and porn claims

BY MARK HENDERSON

CONVICTED sex offenders at a Merseyside secure hospital were allowed to play with children without supervision and deal in pornography and drugs, a report reveals today.

The findings of the public inquiry into Ashworth Special Hospital, set up after a patient absconded and blew the whistle on the lax regime, will be presented to the House of Commons by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary.

The inquiry is said to have reached "devastating" conclusions, and to uphold almost all the allegations made by Stephen Daggett, a sex offender who went on the run in 1996. His claims that drugs and pornography were freely

available and paedophile activity commonplace were initially dismissed by the hospital.

Mr Dobson is expected to announce a reorganisation of Britain's secure hospitals to prevent a similar scandal. Patients at Ashworth, Rampton in Nottinghamshire, and Broadmoor in Berkshire, will face stricter conditions, with perks such as videos and computers banned. There are also plans to hold violent offenders with untreatable "personality disorders" in special prison units rather than hospitals.

The inquiry, chaired by the retired judge Peter Fallon, QC, started sitting in November 1996 and has heard alarming evidence of staff lapses and se-

rious crimes at the hospital. An eight-year-old girl was allowed to visit a convicted paedophile, and was often seen dressed only in underpants being given piggy-back rides on a bounce on his knee, the inquiry was told.

Patients were allowed to design and build a garden with a hidden place where they could not be observed by nurses, and several ran illegal businesses from their rooms.

Alcohol, drugs and pornography were openly available. Staff were often involved in the rackets, and illegal tapes were so widespread that more than 600 were seized in one search.

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PC 'stole' £700 from disabled pensioner

Officer took money while giving an 83-year-old woman advice on crime prevention, writes Paul Wilkinson

A POLICE officer stole £700 from an 83-year-old disabled woman after calling at her home to give advice on crime prevention, a court was told yesterday.

Kenneth Davies, an officer with West Yorkshire Police for almost six years, has denied stealing the money from the home of Doris Midwood between January 1 and 18 last year. He has been suspended on full pay since his arrest almost a year ago.

Simon Goose, for the prosecution, told the jury at Leeds Crown Court that Mrs Midwood regularly put £50 from her pension in a box in her home. She stored the money in a layer of £20 notes separated by an envelope from a layer of £10 notes.

In December 1997 she contacted the police station near her home in Shipley for advice

on crime prevention, and PC Davies was sent to her flat. Mrs Midwood, who is in a wheelchair, told the jury: "He asked me where I kept my money and I said it was in a box in my bureau."

The court was told that PC Davies said she should keep it in a safe tin. He helped her to hide the money and promised to return with an alarm and pins. He returned on January 10 with two safe pins and Mrs Midwood gave him her box of money to hold.

After filling one of the tins, PC Davies told her to hide it in a kitchen cupboard. She took it into the kitchen, leaving him alone with her savings. When she returned, he handed her the second tin to hide in the cupboard. He then left the house, saying he would return with locks for the doors.

But that evening she be-



PC Davies said he would have returned the money.

came worried about the money. "I was sure he couldn't have put it all in the tin and I was curious," she said. "I opened the tin and there was only a few £10 notes. He had taken the £20 notes, which I had kept separate. I never saw him again."

Mrs Midwood alerted police and two officers visited PC Davies's home on January 21. PC Davies went upstairs, changed his top and said that he wanted to walk his dog

while his house was being searched. The officers became suspicious and searched him, finding an envelope containing £910 in his trousers.

When he was interviewed later, PC Davies admitted taking £700. He said: "I removed some notes from a box and I put them inside my jacket pocket." Later in the interview he said: "It was a dishonest act."

Davies, 44, from Bradford, admitted in court that he had taken the money, but said that he had immediately wanted to give it back and had not stolen it. He told the jury that, at the time of the incident, he was under stress. He had suffered depression since the death of his mother-in-law in 1996 and the death of his daughter's boyfriend in 1997.

He told the court that he took the money home for safekeeping, intending to return it later.

"It was confusing and frightening. I was scared for my family, for my job, for my house and for my kids," he said. The trial continues.



Kenneth Clarke yesterday: "In the rainforest, it is extremely difficult to shave"

Clarke's weeks on the wild side

By MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

BEARDING Tory convention, Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, returned from his holiday in Barbados yesterday sporting a chinful of rugged bristles. The new look, Mr Clarke said, was the result of the tropical conditions, which precluded the use of a razor. "I've been on a bird-watching holiday in the rainforest, where it is extremely difficult to shave," he said.

Perhaps aware that no Conservative leader has had facial hair since the days of Anthony Eden and Harold Macmillan, Mr Clarke said that he intended to dispose of the whiskers upon returning to his constituency home in Nottinghamshire.

Some of those close to Mr Clarke, however, thought he might change his mind. He had, after all, once revealed an intention to grow an "Ernest Hemingway-type beard", and his current crop is not unlike those favoured by the Fifties jazz musicians he reveres.

Panel of seven to rule on Pinochet

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN law lords have been appointed to rehearse General Pinochet's appeal in the House of Lords next week. The decision for a rare sitting of seven, rather than the usual five, was announced yesterday as the law lords held a special meeting with Lord Hoffmann.

It was the first time Lord Hoffmann has met his colleagues since they were forced to set aside their ruling because he failed to disclose links with Amnesty International. The hour-long meeting in the House of Lords - "a curious new ground rules on disclosure of interests and avoiding repeat fiasco" - was entirely amicable.

Lord Hoffmann's future is not thought to have been discussed and he is not believed to have offered any apology for what happened. Nor was one sought for making them what one judge has called "a laughing stock".

But some senior judges fear that he is preparing to ride out the storm, and a number feel that he should resign.

The seven law lords who will rehearse the case next Monday are Lords Browne-Wilkinson, Goff of Chieveley, Hope of Craighead, Hutton, Saville of Newdigate, Millett and Phillips. The first four were on the panel that decided unanimously to set aside the original House of Lords ruling before Christmas. The remaining three have not been involved with the case at all.

Later this week the law lords will publish their reasons for setting aside the 3-2 ruling denying General Pinochet immunity from prosecution.

Law, page 37

Wigs give law a bad name, says judge

By FRANCES GIBB

ONE of the most senior judges in England has called for the abolition of wigs, which he says are "positively damaging to the image of the civil justice system".

Sir Richard Scott, who as Vice-Chancellor is head of the High Court Chancery Division, says that wigs present a picture of the law that is "antiquated and foolish".

He also castigates judges who want to keep wigs as behaving like "diehards who still wear top hats in the hunting field" but "not a tankering for the past and for tribal badges of status".

Wigs, Sir Richard says, make judges appear to be out of touch with the country inhabited by the litigants before them and also make remarks of the "Who is Gazza?" variety seem typical, rather than an aberration.

The wearing of wigs allows, almost encourages, a cruel parody of the judicial process and of the judges who preside over it. They are also uncomfortable, scratchy and of questionable hygienic quality, even if they no longer provide a home for a variety of tiny animals.

Sir Richard, who was born in South Africa, makes his remarks in the Inner Temple yearbook. A keen hunting follower, he has already staged a revolt over the wearing of top hats in the hunting field. He wore one with reluctance until the early 1980s, when a friend wearing a top hat was killed while hunting.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, has protested about the wearing of his own wig as Speaker of the House of Lords, complaining that it "weighs a ton".

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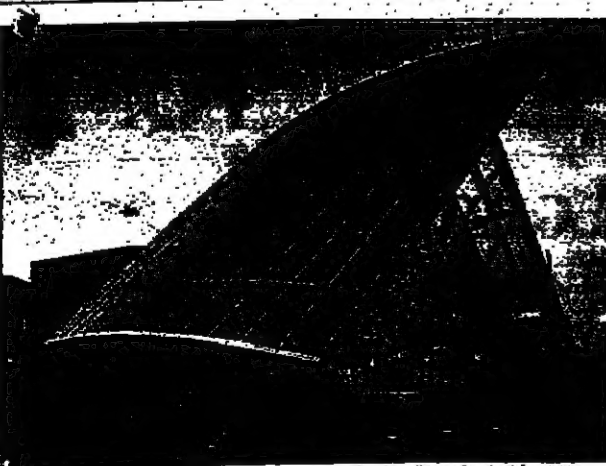
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The prototype pyramid put on show in Birmingham

Pyramid house is a hot property

By SIMON DE BRUELLES

THE solar-powered pyramid of the future, announced by BP yesterday, not only generates enough power to be self-sufficient, it can light up its neighbours too.

BP believes the Solar Showcase is the way we will all live one day. The £500,000 demonstration model will even work at Port Talbot, South Wales, not known for unbroken skies. The 1,000 sq ft building, to be constructed in the spring, is designed to show what can be

achieved using the latest technology in the field. BP Solar will use the pyramid as a visitor centre at the entrance of an industrial park being created in Port Talbot.

A smaller prototype of the building was erected in Birmingham last year to impress world leaders attending the G8 summit. The new 30ft high building will have more than 170 solar panels generating enough electricity to power four conventional homes.

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Father's rural classic puts Bell in shade

Tale of rural life 70 years ago is back in print and there are plans for a TV serialisation, reports **Robin Young**

MARTIN BELL, the Independent MP for Tatton, is about to be overshadowed once more by his late father, an essayist, novelist and original begetter of *The Times* crossword.

Adrian Bell's bestselling book, *Corduroy*, written in 1930 and telling how he came from the city to live and work on a small Suffolk farm, has just returned to print for the first time in 70 years.

Now, in what Martin Bell suggests might become "a sort of agricultural *Ballykissangel*", there are plans to follow the republication of the book with a television series. *Corduroy*, Adrian Bell's account of his apprenticeship to a Suffolk farmer, was a classic in its day and exercised a spell

on soldiers and airmen in wartime Britain, many of whom dreamt of turning to farming after the end of hostilities.

Last October, when *The Sunday Times*, on behalf of the Folio Society, asked its readers to name the best book on country life to complete a list of 20th-century classics, *Corduroy* won by a field's length.

A television company, DLT Entertainment, which made *Love on a Branch Line* and *As Time Goes By*, has now acquired the rights from Martin Bell's elder sister, Anthea. She is the English translator of the Asterix cartoons and, Martin Bell concedes, the "real brains" of the family.

The book is a rich mix of rural nostalgia, sheaves and stacks and steam-powered threshing machines of the 1920s, the like of which a distant kinsman of the MP, Frank Lythgoe, an avid collector of steam engines and agricultural bric-a-brac, still has at Lyman in Cheshire.

After his apprenticeship, in which he rose to be a farm manager, Bell succeeded in making a living off 99 acres of heavy clay at Redisham, in east Suffolk. In the meantime, just before the success of *Corduroy*, he was paid three guineas for the first crossword used in *The Times*, (printed on February 1, 1930, and repeated on the same date in 1995), though he had never solved a crossword before, let alone set one. He went on to supplement



Adrian Bell compiled the first *Times* crossword in 1930. He said the activity was "the ideal job for a chap with a vacant mind sitting on a tractor"

his agricultural and literary income by compiling a further 4,520 puzzles, including the golden jubilee crossword that appeared 50 years after his initial effort.

His length of service won him a place in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the most durable crossword compiler then known, but Bell's explanation was simple. "Crossword compiling," he said, "was the

ideal job for a chap with a vacant mind sitting on a tractor harrowing clouds."

If *Corduroy* proves a television success (and the public's appetite for series such as those based on James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small* and H.E. Bates's *The Darling Buds of May* makes it surprising only that no one thought to snap up the rights before this), there is a rich vein

to be exploited. *Corduroy* was but the first part of a top-selling trilogy, of which *Silver Ley* and *The Cherry Tree* are the later volumes.

Other books by Bell include *Apple Acre* and *The Building of a Farm*, the latter a vivid personal account of farming in wartime Britain. He also wrote a weekly country column for the *Eastern Daily Press* in Norfolk for 30 years.

Martin Bell describes his father as "very clever, but very shy", and remembers him "spending hours in his study, growling a lot", but he adds: "Soldiers and airmen used to read *Corduroy* in the Penguin edition."

"They wrote to him from their bivouacs and tank turrets about their dreams of a farming life when the war was over. It inspired and encour-

aged them." His choice for the actor to portray his father would be Colin Firth.

Adrian Bell died in 1990. His son says that, although he is sad that his father did not live to see the translation of his work to the television screen, he is relieved that he did not witness the final destruction of English agriculture as he had known it.

MP says he regrets pledge to retire

MARTIN BELL yesterday repeated, "with regret", his pledge to stay in parliament for only one term, leaving the once-safe Conservative seat likely to be snatched back by the Tories.

"I said publicly that I would stand for one term only and I stand by that. I regret it because I am enjoying myself," he said. "Breaking that promise would undermine whatever I can achieve in the term, because people would say, 'Look, there's another politician breaking a promise.'"

Mr Bell, a former foreign correspondent, stood for the Cheshire seat of Tatton on an anti-corruption ticket. He said yesterday that he would not be dorse any candidate for the seat. One of the most hotly contested seats at the last election, it is expected to be swamped by former Tory MPs.

Among those said to be looking for a safe seat are the former ministers Michael Portillo, William Waldegrave, Malcolm Rifkind and Sir Michael Forsyth; the former Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten; the defeated MPs Sebastian Coe and Giles Brandreth; and Christine Hamilton, whose husband, Neil, was displaced as the local member by Mr Bell.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Harbour chief on oil spill charge

A harbourmaster goes on trial today, charged with negligence that led to one of Britain's worst oil pollution incidents. Captain Mark Andrews faces three charges arising from the leaking of 72,000 tonnes of crude oil from the tanker *Sea Empress*, which devastated marine and bird life along the West Wales coast.

If found guilty at Cardiff Crown Court, Captain Andrews, 44, faces an unlimited fine and up to two years in jail. Milford Haven Port Authority also faces two charges of negligence. It is accused of allowing an insufficiently trained pilot to bring the vessel into port.

The oil was spilt when the tanker hit rocks in February 1996. The pollution badly hit the local economy, and the tourism and fishing industries are still struggling to recover.

Poison warning

A warning of the fatal risk posed by faulty fires and boilers is being delivered with fuel bills in Wales and the West Midlands, where the most deaths occur. Across Britain, 438 people died from carbon monoxide poisoning in 1987-96.

Driving seat

Roy Barseley, 56, a Labour councillor banned from driving for 21 months for being twice over the drink limit, will continue to chair Nottinghamshire's police advisory committee, which backed a Christmas campaign against drink-driving.

Refugee death

The body of a suspected illegal immigrant from Iraq has been found at Dover ferry terminal. Police believe he was a Kurdish refugee who had been holding on under a lorry. Three Iraqi Kurds have been detained by immigration officers.

Murder charge

A man was remanded in custody, charged with the murder of Christopher Swales, 15, of Skegness, Lincolnshire, whose body was found on a beach. Neil Walgate, 32, of Skegness, appeared before magistrates in the town.

Forger jailed

A 25-year-old graphics student was jailed for two years for making forged £5 and £10 notes to buy heroin. Lee Dudley, of Huthwaite, Nottinghamshire, admitted having counterfeiting materials with intent at Nottingham Crown Court.

Cotswolds USA

A ranch owner in Atlanta, Georgia, has ordered 400 tonnes of Cotswold stone - a record shipment to the United States - for a wall around his land. The stone, from a company in Northleach, Gloucestershire, is being sent next week.

Thatcher joins a bastion of Englishness

BY ALAN HAMINGTON

TO SOME, she is the quintessential Englishwoman: the grocer's daughter, named *Blondie*. To others, she stands for everything that England should not be in the touchy-feely age of New Labour. To the Royal Society of St George, Baroness Thatcher is the new vice-president.

Lady Thatcher has accepted an invitation to join the society, which has 10,000 members and is dedicated to "England and Englishness", but is "about patriotism rather than nationalism".

The society, founded in 1894 to offer support to the sons of England scattered across the Empire, now runs a charitable trust providing funds for youth and community projects to foster "duty, loyalty and service to England".

Lady Thatcher joins a line of vice-presidents with impeccably English credentials, including the Duke of Westminster, the present Duke of Wellington, Earl Nelson of Trafalgar and Merion, and Field Marshal Lord Bramall, a former Chief of the General Staff and now Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London.

William Firth, chairman of the society, said yesterday that Lady Thatcher exemplified the English trait of determination, but denied that his society was right-wing or in any way politically active.

"I am a unionist, and I dislike Little Englanders. The essence of Englishness is the ability to absorb other people



Lady Thatcher: helped amputee football team

and ideas into a mainstream of continuity," he said.

The real reason that Lady Thatcher was a heroine to the society, Mr Firth disclosed, was that, when Prime Minister, she offered personal help and encouragement to the England Amputee Football Club, which the society was sponsoring at the time. When one of its players died of cancer, she wrote a particularly touching letter of condolence.

The society believes in "patriotic patriotism". Should it not, therefore, have offered the job to John Major, whose English vision of warm beer and village cricket was a good deal more polite than his predecessor's obsession with poll tax and there being no such thing as society?

Mind you, she did try the first out on the Scots, and the second to an audience in Edinburgh. Trust the English to offload their daft ideas on foreigners.

London appoints a 'drugs czar'

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A VETERAN of the Lesh Betts case has been recruited by Scotland Yard to become the first anti-drugs co-ordinator for London.

Commander Andy Hayman, 39, takes control of a new directorate at the Yard as police research shows a third of suspects arrested in London have drug links. Initial figures show that a high percentage of crimes involving shoplifting, house burglary and theft from cars, are linked to drugs.

Mr Hayman, who will today unveil a £250,000 poster and radio advertising campaign on the links between drugs and crime, was recruited by Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, from the Essex force within a few weeks of completing a senior officer's training course.

He initiated anti-drugs campaigns after the death of Lesh Betts from Ecstasy in 1995. He gave evidence to a House of Lords committee looking at drugs, helped to set up an award-winning schools programme and is now working part-time on an MSc in criminology at Cambridge.

His drugs directorate, one of only two in the country, will have four senior officers working on assessing the extent of drug use and targeting dealers and markets. There were 34,713 drug convictions in London between April 1997 and April 1998.

Mr Hayman said that he planned to develop drug referral schemes so that suspects who had identifiable problems could receive treatment. He said that he planned to scrap the traditional "talk and chair" approach of classroom lectures and make greater use of techniques such as road shows and pop music shows with anti-drug messages.

Payout adds to anguish in Dunblane

A TEACHER who helped to identify dead and injured children after the Dunblane massacre has been awarded compensation for mental trauma, while some bereaved families have yet to receive a penny.

Linda Stewart, 48, a nursery teacher, has received an interim payment from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. A parent of a child who died said that he and other families were still waiting to hear about their claims.

The CICB confirmed that it has so far paid out £2.8 million in awards to 131 individuals from Dunblane, 80 for psychological trauma. Of the 300 applications made, 38 cases were rejected and 131 are still being considered, a spokesman said.

Mrs Stewart, a mother of two, has not worked since the March 1996 shootings, in which 16 children and their teacher, Gwen Mayor, died.

Mrs Stewart, one of five members of staff who went on sick leave after the massacre, arrived in the gym minutes after the shooting and tended the wounded and dying children until ambulances arrived. As a former teacher of the Primary One class, she was asked by police to help to identify bodies of the victims.

Speaking to a newspaper yesterday, she said that she suf-

Teacher is given compensation, but bereaved families are still waiting, reports Shirley English

fered flashbacks and nightmares and rarely got to sleep before 3am. She could not light a match because the smell reminded her of gunsmoke and was tormented by feelings of guilt that she could have done more to help.

"I will never be able to work again. Teaching was my dream job. My life has been ruined and all I want to do is turn back the clock. No amount of compensation would help to put things right," Mrs Stewart said.

"It's a dreadful thing to say, but I'm now terrified of children. We were very close to the little ones."

Yesterday the people of Dunblane were reluctant to talk about compensation, but there was an underlying sense of bitterness that Mrs Stewart's comments had put the town back in the spotlight. One per-

son said: "It has been so quiet and calm here recently, and now this."

A bereaved father said that he was still waiting to hear whether his family would get compensation. "I have nothing against the woman receiving compensation because of what she went through. I wouldn't wish that on anyone. But many families had to identify the dead bodies of their own children and have not received any compensation."

A number of teachers who helped in the gym in the aftermath of the tragedy went back to work immediately and struggled on regardless, one source said. "She was not the only person in the gym who had to do a traumatic job. A lot of people could all talk about what happened to them, but they don't."

Edward McKenna, CICB operations manager, said: "A person who is permanently disabled by mental injury will get around £20,000. An appropriate amount will be added for loss of earnings and any care costs which are incurred. This could bring the total compensation up to half a million pounds."

After the Lockerbie disaster a number of payouts were made for psychological trauma to those who witnessed the aftermath of the tragedy. The bulk of the recipients belonged to the emergency services.

Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse injured while trying to protect children from a machete attack at St Luke's school in Wolverhampton, received £6,000 for her injuries.

In Dunblane, families of the dead and injured received awards from the £4.5 million Dunblane Fund and the £2 million Stirling Observer Fund set up to deal with the flood of unsolicited donations that poured into the town from around the world.

Yesterday Scotland's largest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland welcomed news of Mrs Stewart's award.



Chris Burden with a prototype for the model aeroplanes that his "factory" at the Tate Gallery will produce. Visitors will be able to buy them for £5

Suffering artist sees career take off

Man who had himself shot in the name of art plans to litter Tate Gallery with 22,000 model aircraft, reports Dalya Alberge

FOR Chris Burden, art is about taking risks. In the cause of art, he has asked a friend to shoot him; he has given himself electric shocks and he has languished in a jammed lift for four days.

But when the American mounts the first British exhibition of his 30-year career, for once he will not be in personal danger. Eyebrows, however, will still be raised.

The Tate Gallery in London is to exhibit a "factory" installation that will manufacture model planes from balsa wood, tissue paper and plastic and launch one every two minutes. Some 22,000 planes, with 12m wingspans, are expected to be launched into the Duveen Galleries. When they land, visitors can buy them for £5.

The artist hopes the public will discard crashed models across London. "Hopefully, they will fly them right away and create a lot of litter around the Tate. It will be a signpost for what's going on inside."

Burden says of the work, *When Robots Rule: The Two-Minute Airplane Factory*: "It's a functioning model of industrial capitalism. You have the factory, the marketing of the

airplanes, the production of the airplanes. Are we overproducing, under-producing? Can we sell enough? Almost everything we handle or touch was made in a factory, yet we have no idea of how it happens. This is a visual factory, in the sense that you get to see the method of production."

The Tate describes the work, on show from March 2, as "entertaining, ingenious and provocative". Through toys, Burden is aiming to demystify 20th-century science.

The artist, who was born in 1946 in Boston, made his name with performance art of a distinctly sadomasochistic nature. In 1971 as a student at the University of California, he shut himself in a locker measuring 2ft by 3ft for five days, drinking water from a bottle in the locker above him and urinating into one below. Also that year he subjected himself to electric shocks in a work called *Doorway to Heaven*.

he grasped live wires in each hand and pushed them into his chest. Next came *Back to You*, which involved having drawing-pins pushed into his body while sitting still in a lift.

In *Deadman*, he covered himself with a tarpaulin and lay on a Los Angeles motorway — only to be arrested for causing a false emergency to be reported. By 1974 he was living on the back of a Volkswagen and having nails driven through his palms.

Burden denies he is a mere stuntman and some works have contained overt political comment. In his installation *The Reason for the Neutron Bomb*, 1979, 50,000 coins, each with a matchstick glued to it, were meant to represent the number of tanks controlled by the Soviet Union.

But the critics know him best for the *Shoot* incident of 1973, in which he received a nasty bullet wound when he stood against a gallery wall

and was shot by a friend with a rifle. He still has a scar on his arm.

While the public may have been appalled, reviewers were impressed. One wrote: "Burden's early performances were essentially private acts, but they dealt with taboos that struck a vulnerable chord in the consciousness of witnesses and in the imaginations of people who have only heard verbal accounts of Burden's actions."

Another suggested that "actual experience — getting himself shot in the arm, for instance, is a primal answer to the problem of metaphor in art". Yesterday Burden, who now lives in Los Angeles, said of *Shoot*: "It was like a scientific experiment. I was trying to examine what it feels like to be shot. It's about controlling fate, trying to manage the unmanageable and the unthinkable. It's about turning towards the dragon, as opposed to turning your back on it." He added: "It was horrific to look at my arm and see a smoking hole."

Burden says his work has been inspired by artists such as Duchamp and Picasso and, in that sense, is "very traditional". With the aircraft factory, it has also become rather safer.



Linda Stewart: "All I want to do is turn back the clock"

Champagne reopening for tin mine

MINERS from around the world have been applying for jobs at a tin mine that reopened yesterday ten months after it closed with the loss of 300 jobs.

The new owner of the £600ft South Crofty pit near Redruth, Cornwall, said he had received job applications from as far afield as Brazil and South Africa. Will Hughes said responses from miners wanting to work at the pit had been "absolutely amazing".

Mr Hughes, a Welsh mining entrepreneur, led a march of local people to the mine, where there was a champagne celebration for the revival of Europe's last tin pit. He bought the mine in a £625,000 deal with David Giddings, South Crofty's managing director and major shareholder.

Mark Kaczmarek, a former miner and union shop steward, said at the pit gates that it was an emotional day for Cornish people. However, before work can start, the flooded areas of the mine have to be pumped out. Since being closed, the mine has flooded to a depth of 800ft and it is estimated that it will cost about £1 million to pump out.

Travel the world next year — by racing yacht

By ELIZABETH JUDGE

ADVENTURERS of all sorts were challenged by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston yesterday to compete next year in the world's longest ocean race.

Sir Robin, chairman of Clipper Ventures and race director of *The Times* Clipper 2000 round-the-world contest, is looking for crews for up to 12 yachts to take part in the 36,000-mile event. Speaking at the London International Boat Show, he confirmed that the race would start and finish in Portsmouth, leaving next October.

The yachts will cross the Atlantic three times and also cross the Pacific and Indian Oceans and race through the East and South China Seas, returning in August 2001. They will visit Cuba, Shanghai and the Galapagos Islands, and spend New Year's Eve heading for Hawaii.

Sir Robin said the 14-strong crews would be led by professional skippers. Applicants can join them for one or more of the six legs of the race.

He said that many people wanted something different to do with their lives "and sailing



around the world is seen as one of the great things to do. There is a certain danger but that is what gives you a sense of achievement. "What is going to be so exciting is that it will give people a chance to get behind their teams and their city as they compete against their rival."

Towns and cities are being asked to sponsor a participating boat. They will pay £100,000 to put their names on the side of one of the 60ft clipper. It is hoped that each of the crew on the yacht will be from that town. The crew's families and friends will be able to follow their progress in *The Times* and on a website.

Each leg will take between five days and 3½ weeks and the winner of *The Times* Trophy will be decided according to the accumulated points. Applicants, who must be aged at least 18, will have to raise between £6,000 and £23,500, depending upon how

many legs they choose to compete in. About 500 people are being sought.

The competitors, to be selected by Clipper Ventures, will not have to be experienced sailors as everyone will be given rigorous training.

The round-the-world race takes place every two years; this is the first to be sponsored by *The Times*. The current Clipper 1998 race is nearing the end of the second leg.

Colin de Mowbray, the project manager, said: "This race is open to people from every walk of life. One competitor in the last race sold her horse and remortgaged her house so that she could take part."

Representatives from towns and cities considering sponsoring a yacht are at the boat show this week for briefings. Patrick Sheriff, marketing director of Times Newspapers, said that the race offered "a great promotional opportunity for the cities, but also a compelling sporting platform from which to take on their rivals".

For information on *The Times* Clipper 2000, telephone 01234 711550 or see the website <http://www.clipper-ventures.com>

Minder 'shook child for crying'

A FIVE-MONTH-OLD baby was left with permanent brain damage after being deliberately shaken by a childminder in a "flash of anger", a court was told yesterday.

Shirley Clemons caused the baby girl, who cannot be identified, a "devastating" brain injury, Coventry Crown Court was told.

Julia Macur, for the prosecution, alleged that Mrs Clemons, 48, wanted to hurt the baby because she was crying or being disruptive while in her care last March.

The injured child — who now suffers from a form of cerebral palsy, epilepsy and has impaired hearing and sight — was taken to hospital after Mrs Clemons dialed 999.

Miss Macur said: "Mrs Clemons injured [the baby]

most probably in a flash of anger, but nevertheless intended to do her really serious bodily harm." She added that the baby would "never be a normal child".

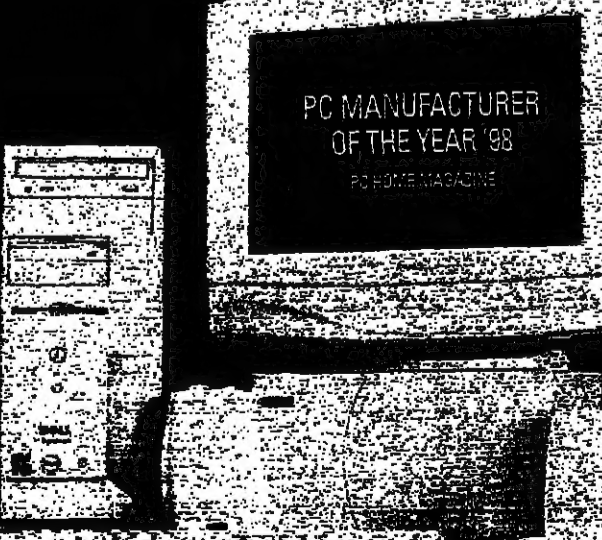
The jury was told that Mrs Clemons, described as a woman of good character with many years' experience as a childminder, claimed that she shook the child to resuscitate her after she stopped breathing.

Miss Macur said: "This was a momentary lapse; this was rage, and in that rage Mrs Clemons's qualifications as a good and careful childminder went out of the window."

Mrs Clemons, of Coventry, denies causing grievous bodily harm with intent and a charge of child cruelty. The trial continues.

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The Chancellor doth protest too much, methinks

In the end, everything that matters in this Government comes back to Gordon Brown. His Edinburgh speech was the most coherent statement of what Downing Street is eager not to call a relaunch, despite this week's rehearsing of several familiar initiatives and the desperate attempt to address public worries about the NHS. The speech was intriguing both for what Mr Brown said, and what he did not say.

Reflecting the current febrile mood, Mr Brown felt it necessary to pay an extravagant tribute to Tony Blair in terms that would not have shamed Stalin's Politburo — his "historic achievement", his "leadership", "measure of Tony Blair's suc-

cess", "it is to his credit". The Chancellor protests too much. Mr Blair and he agree on most policies, far more than John Major did with either Norman Lamont or Kenneth Clarke. The problem has been rather mood music, and the jarring notes of some acolytes.

Mr Brown remains the unrivalled ideologist of new Labour, even if his rhetoric sometimes runs away with itself in elaborate contrasts. His theme was the changed role of government, as expander of individual opportunity. In particular, he foreshadowed new initiatives in his spring Budget: on competition policy to tackle restrictive practices and opening up industries to new entrants, on making the tax

system work better to encourage research and development, science and innovation and entrepreneurship, on tackling the employment needs of men aged over 55 and on expanding lifelong education.

All this is, of course, micro-economic. Having made the Bank of England responsible for setting interest rates and set a fiscal framework for the next three years, Mr Brown believes that his role is now primarily to improve the structure of the economy, the supply side.

Strangely for the first speech of the year by a Chancellor of the Exchequer, he did not mention the

macro-economic outlook. He did not discuss whether he now thinks the downturn this year is likely to be deeper, and the recovery next year slower, than he forecast in early November. The latter is crucial to the sustainability of his public spending plans.

Mr Brown also maintained his curious silence on the euro. For someone who sees no objection in principle to sterling's entry, he has been oddly reticent so far this year on the launch of the euro. It was a mistake that no British minister attended the official launch on December 31. The Treasury explained that no "substantive issues affecting Britain" were being discussed was uncomfortably reminiscent of the damagingly dismissive Whitehall attitude of the 1990s towards early European integration.

Mr Brown needs to step up public contacts with other European finance ministers if he wants to smooth the path towards British participation in monetary union in two or three years.

His political aim yesterday was to answer criticisms that new Labour has nothing to do with principle, "that politics is a matter only of personalities rather than policies, that style can substitute for substance and that

what separates parties is far less than what unites them".

This week's announcements and speeches should knock on the head the idea that new Labour is just presentational froth. But such activity does not answer the question of whether this model of government activism and central regulation will produce improved public services without having higher taxes. The Blair Government is not about to come apart. The Tories will get no where suggesting it is, and they should narrow the focus of their attacks.

Far more important is whether the Government can deliver on the demanding goals that Mr Brown has set out.

Secret talks may produce new laws on polls

By JAMES LINDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW rules governing the way referendums are held could become law this year after secret talks between the Tories and the Government.

Tory MPs will today unveil plans to use a Private Member's Bill to introduce a basic code of conduct for future polls. The Referendums Bill will be brought forward by Andrew Robathan, Tory MP for Blaby, who came fourth in the ballot of MPs seeking to introduce their own legislation this session.

Oliver Letwin, a Tory constitutional spokesman, has been holding talks with George Howarth, the junior Home Office Minister, to seek cross-party agreement on the way forward. The Tories claim to have secured broad agreement on several key issues, including that the two opposing sides in a referendum have equal access to public funds and to television airtime. Discussions are also continuing about how rules could be drawn up to prevent referendum questions being loaded.

No consensus has been reached on whether there should be a cap on spending.

Home Office sources said that although the Government was happy to help and provide advice, no formal agreement had yet been reached on the text of any Bill. They added that the Government was planning to publish its own draft Bill this summer to implement the recommendations about referendums made by the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life.

"We are not keen on a piecemeal approach towards the issue," one official said. "We are happy to help out but are likely to take a neutral position towards any Bill the Tories might introduce."

Brown rallies to Blair's side

Fightback begins with fulsome praise of party leader, write Jill Sherman and Jason Allardye

GORDON BROWN yesterday mounted a strong defence of new Labour and heaped praise on Tony Blair in a bid to reassure the public that there was no rift between them.

The Chancellor, in his first public comments since the resignations of Peter Mandelson, Geoffrey Robinson and Charlie Whelan, his press aide, made clear that he fully supported the Prime Minister's goal to modernise and transform the party.

"As Tony Blair recognised only a transformed party willing to think anew can transform the country for a new era," he said. "His historic achievement is to harness enduring British values, Labour values, to the challenges of the new economy and by breaking with past programmes, develop a new direction of the coming decade — an economy that is strong and a society that is just."

The Chancellor, who is said to have been desolate over Mr Whelan's departure, went out of his way to endorse new Labour as he led a Cabinet fightback to get the Government back on track.

Mr Whelan was absent from the business breakfast in Scotland addressed by Mr Brown and was believed to be working at the Treasury office in London. Mr Brown was accompanied only by Sue Nye,

his personal assistant, and his speech was written in part by Douglas Alexander, his adviser and MP for Paisley.

Mr Brown scotched reports that he was forging a closer alliance with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, by making clear that he did not support greater intervention in industry.

He underlined that the new Labour label had sometimes been misinterpreted by the party and the public to be more about style than substance. In what was seen as a slight dig at those who are too enthusiastic about cosying up to the Liberal Democrats, he also hinted that there were big policy differences between them.

"All of us in new Labour reject the view that politics has nothing to do with principle; that ideas are less important than unprincipled pragmatism, that politics is a matter only of personalities rather than policies, that style can substitute for substance, and that what separates parties is far less than what unites them."

He announced that the New Deal would be extended to the over-50s and signalled that there would be tax measures in the Budget to help research and development and small businesses.

He said: "Around one third of men between 50 and 65 have no jobs; many have been



Gordon Brown addressing the meeting in Edinburgh yesterday: he said new Labour had been misinterpreted to be more about style than substance

denied chances to get jobs after being made redundant. For the over-55s it is 40 per cent so it is time to give special attention to their employment needs and the next Budget will. Already the New Deal is helping 180,000 young people and is being extended this year

to help more of the long-term unemployed and disabled. He also indicated that the Budget would include plans for greater competition and new enterprise. "In particular we need to tackle restrictive practices and open up competition to new entrants and this

we will continue to do." It would also include measures to encourage innovation and science to ensure that technological and commercial opportunities could be taken.

Michael Gove, page 16
Leading article, page 17

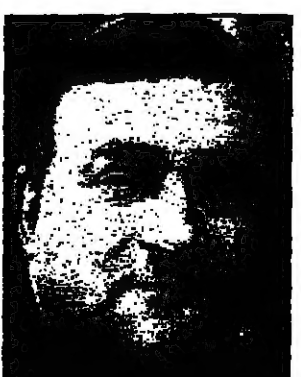
EU farm reform will cut food bills

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE reform of European Union farm subsidies would cut annual household food bills by £18 a person, it was claimed yesterday. Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, told a government-convened conference in London that the reforms, due to be adopted in late March, would also be good for taxpayers and farmers.

"The present structures actually build in the creation of surpluses for some products," he told the food and farming industries, consumer groups and environmentalists. Mr Brown said he would be sending a questionnaire to farmers seeking views on the proposals and the Government's response. "I want everyone involved in the industry to have their chance to comment on the way in which the common agricultural policy reform should be implemented in this country," he said.

At present, British farmers receive about £3 billion in EU subsidies a year. The ministry estimates that this costs about £3 per person per week in higher food prices and £1 per person per week in extra taxes. The proposed reforms would cut guaranteed prices for beef, cereals and milk by up to 30 per cent. Farmers would be partly compensated by an increase in cash payments linked to farm size.



Brown said farmers will be asked for their views

Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from the start of business on 12th January 1999 the following Business Cheque, Deposit and Lending rates are applicable to the accounts set out below.

	OLD AER %	OLD GROSS %	NEW AER %	NEW GROSS %	NEW NET %
Business Investment Account - paid monthly					
<i>30 day notice account</i>					
£250,000+	5.01	4.90	4.75	4.55	3.72
£100,000-249,999	4.96	4.85	4.70	4.50	3.68
£25,000-99,999	4.70	4.60	4.44	4.35	3.48
£10,000-24,999	4.18	4.10	3.92	3.85	3.08
£1-9,999	1.26	1.25	1.00	1.00	0.80
Premier Interest Account - paid monthly					
<i>14 day notice account</i>					
£250,000+	4.91	4.80	4.65	4.55	3.64
£100,000-249,999	4.70	4.60	4.44	4.35	3.48
£25,000-99,999	4.44	4.35	4.18	4.10	3.28
£10,000-24,999	4.02	3.95	3.76	3.70	2.96
£1-9,999	2.78	2.75	2.53	2.50	2.00
Business Call Account - paid monthly					
£250,000+	3.35	3.30	3.09	3.05	2.44
£50,000-249,999	3.14	3.10	2.89	2.85	2.28
£10,000-49,999	2.78	2.75	2.53	2.50	2.00
£1,000-9,999	2.48	2.45	2.22	2.20	1.76
£1-999	2.22	2.20	1.97	1.95	1.56
Practice Call Account - paid quarterly					
£1+	4.37	4.30	4.17	4.05	3.24
Designated Clients Account - paid quarterly					
£100,000+	4.37	4.30	3.96	3.90	3.12
£50,000-99,999	4.27	4.20	3.96	3.90	3.12
£10,000-49,999	4.01	3.95	3.60	3.55	2.84
£2,000-9,999	2.93	2.90	2.68	2.65	2.12
£1-1,999	1.10	1.10	0.85	0.85	0.68
Schools Banking Account - paid quarterly					
£1+	4.11	4.05	3.85	3.80	3.04
Capital Reserve Account - paid quarterly					
<i>7 day notice account</i>					
£250,000+	4.89	4.80	4.63	4.55	3.64
£100,000-249,999	4.68	4.60	4.42	4.35	3.48
£50,000-99,999	4.42	4.35	4.16	4.10	3.28
£10,000-49,999	4.01	3.95	3.75	3.70	2.96
£1-9,999	3.49	3.45	3.24	3.20	2.56
Business Interest Cheque Account - paid quarterly					
£250,000+	2.63	2.60	2.37	2.35	1.88
£100,000-249,999	2.17	2.15	1.91	1.90	1.52
£50,000-99,999	1.71	1.70	1.46	1.45	1.16
£10,000-49,999	1.36	1.35	1.00	1.00	0.80
£2,000-9,999	1.05	1.05	0.75	0.75	0.60
£1-1,999	0.80	0.80	0.50	0.50	0.40
BICA for Charities - paid quarterly					
£1+	2.63	2.60	2.37	2.35	1.88
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Standard					11.64
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Preferential					9.00
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Managed B					10.20
Managed C					9.12
Managed D					8.64

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US jets fire on Iraqi missiles

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA



The Pope reads his "state of the world" address

Pope condemns airstrikes as solving nothing

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

TWO weeks before he is due to meet an embattled President Clinton, the Pope yesterday rebuked the United States and Britain for their bombing raids on Iraq last month, saying the attacks had solved nothing. If anything, they had made matters worse.

Giving his annual "state of the world" address to diplomats, the Pope said that war "does not solve problems, it only complicates them, and leaves the civilian population to bear the tragic consequences".

He did not single out the US or Britain by name. But he said: "International law cannot be the law of the strongest, or of a simple majority of states, or even of an international organisation... It must be a law which conforms to the principles of natural and moral law, which are always binding on parties in conflict and the various issues in dispute."

The Pope, 78, sets off for Mexico on January 22 and is scheduled to make a stopover in St Louis, Missouri, four days later to meet Mr

Clinton. Yesterday he appeared preoccupied with tensions in the Middle East — "a region in which our religious traditions are rooted".

The Pope deplored the hiatus in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, noting that "it is not possible to keep people indefinitely between war and peace without the risk of dangerously increasing tension and violence".

He said it would be unwise to delay tackling the status of Jerusalem any further. Only "honest dialogue, a real concern for the welfare of people and respect for the international order" could bring lasting solutions to a region where Islam, Judaism and Christianity all had their roots.

In a wide-ranging speech in French he called for peace in the Balkans, urging the Serbs and ethnic Albanians of Kosovo to "meet round a table to defuse without delay the armed suspicion which paralyses and kills". He expressed concern about instability in Africa, noting that 17 of its 53 nation states were involved in conflicts.

AMERICAN warplanes fired on Iraqi missile batteries yesterday in two attacks as tension escalated with a defiant Baghdad. In one incident, two US F15E strike aircraft attacked a surface-to-air missile base near Mosul. In another, an F16 fighter fired a High Speed Anti-Radiation (Harm) missile. Both incidents apparently occurred after the aircraft were illuminated by Iraqi radar during routine patrols of the northern no-fly zone.

After days of menacing invective from Baghdad, Kuwait has placed part of its military on full alert. Iraq has accused the emirate, along with Saudi Arabia, of betrayal for allowing British and US airstrikes from their territory and demanded compensation.

The Kuwaiti decision was announced after an emergency meeting of the Defence Council, which also discussed plans to call up reservists. The move was seen as symbolic, given Kuwait's reliance on US muscle for its protection. "Kuwait is a small country and we cannot take any risks," an army spokesman said.

It was reported by a Kuwaiti newspaper that 25 "Arabs" had been arrested carrying anti-government leaflets calling for a revolution. They confessed to plotting against Kuwait for Iraq, the paper said. The US planes returned safely to their base in Turkey. The Pentagon said it had no immediate information on the damage to the Iraqi sites.

US officials reported that Iraq had moved new air defence units into the no-fly zones and Washington had doubled to 16 the number of planes on patrol. They said that American and British planes would continue to monitor the no-fly zones despite Iraqi opposition to the patrols.

"The coalition will continue to enforce the no-fly zones vigorously. These provocations are a reminder of the threat that Saddam poses to the region and the need for vigilance in containing that threat," a National Security Council spokesman said.

The attacks were the latest in a series of clashes in the no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq. Last Thursday, an F16 fired at another missile battery, and two days earlier four US jets shot at, but missed, Iraqi planes that had breached the flight ban.

Iraq's defiance forms part of a broader challenge to the US and Britain — and their Arab

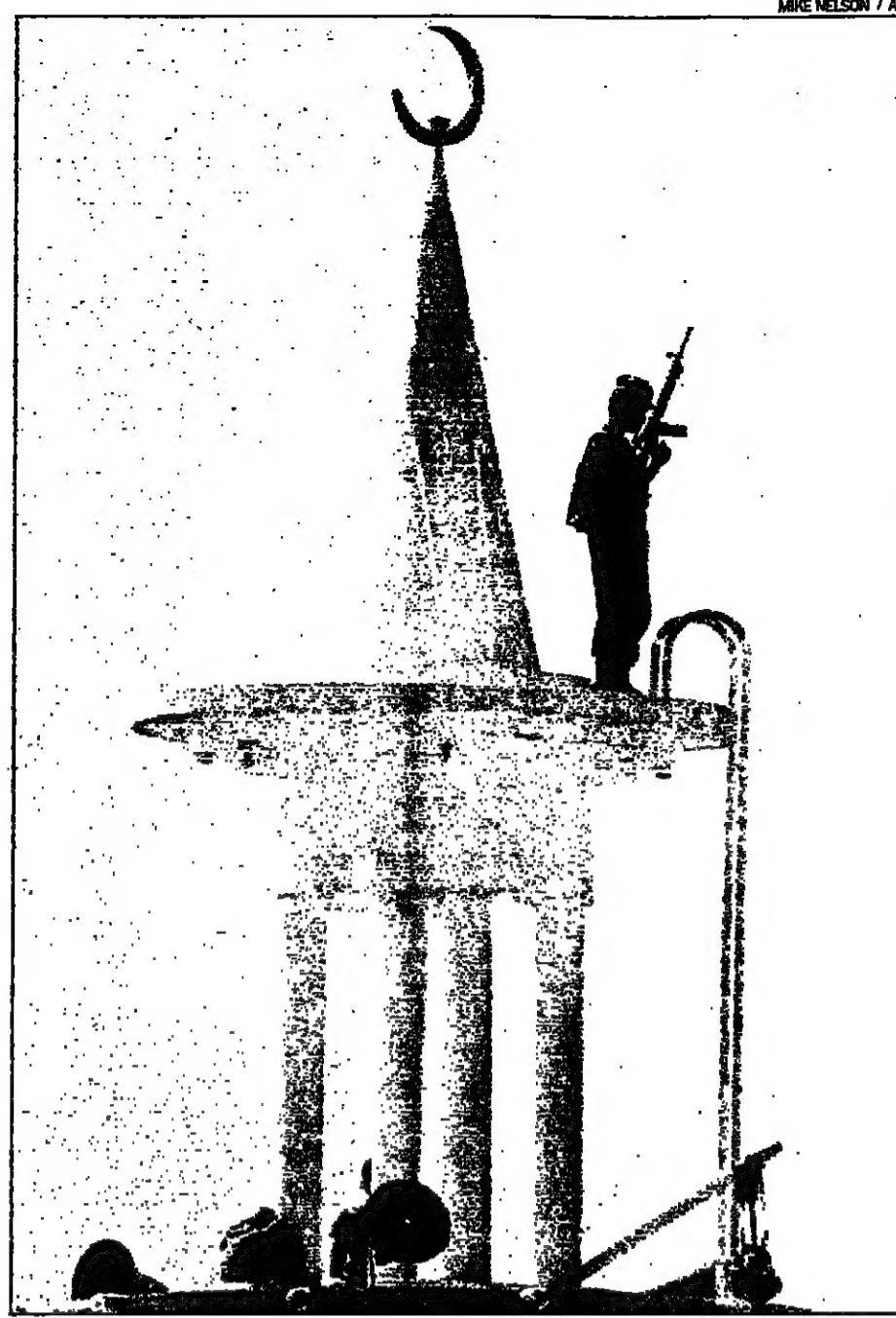
ring to President Saddam Hussein. "Threatening Kuwait does that, but it also unites countries against him."

While Operation Desert Fox appears only to have emboldened the Iraqi leader, his actions can also be viewed as a sign of frustration as he attempts to demonstrate his ability to continue to seize the initiative. Washington said he had lost key military aides in the airstrikes, and there have been reports of purges and executions of suspect officers. Defections have also continued on an almost daily basis. "Something happened in southern Iraq during Desert Fox. Whether it was an attempted coup or not is not yet clear," an Iraqi source said.

Saddam appears to believe that threats against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will persuade them not to allow America and Britain to use bases on their territory for future airstrikes, which many in Baghdad believe could come when the Muslim holy month of Ramadan ends later this month.

However, any perceived Iraqi threat to Kuwait could backfire on Saddam by alienating France, Russia and China, its sympathisers on the United Nations Security Council. Washington could also use it to reinforce the no-fly zone in southern Iraq with a no-drive zone. Iraqi opposition groups have long called for a ban on Saddam's tanks in the restive, Shia-dominated south.

Saudi Arabia, which called on Sunday for Saddam's overthrow, unveiled an initiative to relax the crippling UN embargo on Iraq by allowing the imports of everything but military equipment and material. The offer, to be discussed by minister from the Gulf Co-operation Council later this month, was dismissed by Iraq as "insincere".



A soldier stands guard on a mosque minaret in Kuwait City after the military alert

'Saddam is raising the stakes to keep Iraq on the international agenda'

allies — since the two powers launched Operation Desert Fox last month.

Security at Western embassies and American military facilities in Kuwait has been intensified, while Washington said it would act militarily if Iraq retaliated against Kuwait or Saudi Arabia for last month's raids.

However, Iraq's capacity to pose a military threat to Kuwait is questionable, given its inability to provide air cover and the Anglo-American firepower arrayed against its troops. "He's raising the stakes to keep Iraq on the international agenda," said an Arab envoy in the Gulf, refer-

Kibbutz row rocks 'Jesus boat' plan for Vatican display

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

PLANS to move a famous relic known as the "Jesus boat" from the Sea of Galilee in Israel to the Vatican for a millennium exhibition has sparked a fierce row among Israelis. Members of the kibbutz where the 2,000-year-old vessel — missing its bow, stern and sides — was discovered in 1986 and is now displayed in a

special preservation pool, yesterday claimed that the move would wreck the artefact and the collective farm's lucrative tourism business.

Israel's Education Ministry and a senior member of the Knesset joined the growing chorus of protests, demanding that the Antiquities Authority, which has been negotiating the exhibition with the Vatican for the past three years, scrap its plans.

"It is an incredible and wrong deci-

sion," said Avi Yehzekel, chairman of the Knesset sub-committee on tourism. "It will hurt tourism to Israel and it will damage the boat itself."

Experts believe that the boat was probably used during the Roman period to ferry supplies along the inland Sea of Galilee, where the Scriptures say that Jesus walked on the water. Only a shell, about 13 ft long and 6 ft wide remains of the boat, which has been dated to the 1st Century, but

never directly linked to Jesus. Archaeologists believe that the design is the same as boats used in the Mediterranean around the time of the New Testament.

Defending the decision to move the boat, Amir Drori, head of the Antiquities Authority, maintained that an international group of restoration experts had determined that no real harm would come to the vessel. He said that it would return to the

Holy Land in time for an expected summer influx of millennium pilgrims. "Until now, no more than 70,000 pilgrims a year have come to see the boat," he argued. If it was exhibited for three months in the hall where the Pope receives pilgrims, it could be seen by millions. "Afterwards every pilgrim who comes to Israel will see the permanent exhibition from April 2000 until the end of time," Mr Drori said.

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Guardians of the lost Ark keep the faith

FOR nearly 3,000 years, as fans of Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* might tell you, people have been searching for the lost Ark of the Covenant.

In Ethiopia, however, the search for the legendary chest containing the Ten Commandments never began. For the Ethiopians believe that the Holy Ark has been with them all along, or at least since it was removed from Jerusalem hundreds of years before the birth of Christ.

In mid-January the faithful of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church will gather for their most important festival, Timkat, which commemorates the baptism of Christ. Nowhere will the festival be celebrated with greater ceremony than in Axum, the oldest and most sacred of Ethiopian towns. It is here that Ethiopians believe the Ark is held.

On the eve of Timkat and on Timkat itself, January 19, the Ark will be displayed to the faithful of Axum. Of course, it will not be the real Ark, which is considered too powerful for humans to behold. Ethiopia's most treasured relic never leaves the chapel where it is guarded night and day.

Instead, a *tabot* or symbolic representation will be used. Here in Axum, and all over Ethiopia, *tabots* wrapped in brocade will be paraded amid great rejoicing, singing and dancing. According to legend,

David Orr in ancient Axum investigates a biblical conundrum

the stone tablets on which God inscribed the law were placed in the Ark by Moses. Its power helped the Israelites to defeat their enemies and they carried it with them to the Promised Land. The Ark was installed in a temple in Jerusalem by King Solomon. Then it suddenly disappeared.

No one knows why but after the time of Solomon (970-931 BC), the Ark is almost never mentioned in the Old Testament. The Ethiopians claim to have the answer to the riddle.

The venerated relic is kept in a chapel beside the church of St Mary of Zion. I was taken there by Deacon Fiseha Asfaw who told me the story of the Ark. This accorded with the main points of the legend as I had heard it but also varied from it in parts. As he was telling it, my guide from the National Tourist Office more than once whispered: "That bit is not true."

A thousand years before the birth of Christ — so ran the deacon's account — the Queen of Sheba travelled from Ethiopia to Jerusalem where she conceived a child by King Solomon. That child was Menelik and as a young man he, too, travelled from Ethiopia to Jerusalem. He stayed there for some years with his father. When he left, he took with him the Ark of the Covenant. Solomon apparently accepted that its removal had been sanctioned by God.

The Ark was brought to Ethiopia, said the deacon, and before the birth of Christ installed in a temple near Axum. During the reign of the late Emperor Haile Selassie it was placed in the new chapel before which the deacon and I now stood.

Inside, a door, draped with a cloth, is flanked by two tall windows with turquoise frames. The edifice is surrounded by a turquoise dome. Inside a priest stands guard inside a fence.

"Aba Teklemariam has been looking after the Ark for nearly four years and he is the only one allowed to see it," the deacon said. "The former guardian was rebuked by the Ark because God was displeased with him. Many times I asked what had happened but he would not tell me."

The deacon said he had himself witnessed the Ark's power. One of the previous guardians, he said, had been urged by a former patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to show him the Ark.

"From his nose the patriarch discharged blood," said the deacon. "He came a second time and again he tried to persuade the guardian to show him the Ark. The guardian hesitated and he, too, was punished by the angels. Blood came from his nose. He was sick and he died some months afterwards. After suffering many years, the patriarch also died."

I asked Aba Gabregioris, guardian of the church's treasury, if he was worried about a border dispute with Eritrea again erupting into war. "We have the power of the Ark on our side and God will protect the Ark and Ethiopia," he said.



Worshippers carrying the Ark of the Covenant in this illustration by Jean Fouquet (circa 1425-80)



Bligh and his crew of loyal seamen being cast adrift from the *Bounty* by Fletcher Christian and the mutineers

Cannon of Bligh's mutineers is raised from wreck of *Bounty*

Australians uncover another secret from an enduring seafaring saga, writes Roger Maynard in Sydney

AN AUSTRALIAN team of marine archaeologists was yesterday celebrating the retrieval of one of the cannons from the wreck of *HMS Bounty*, at its final resting place off Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific.

The expedition, from James Cook University in Townsville, was assisted by residents of the island in building an intricate air-powered lifting device to raise the cannon.

They used the machine to extricate the 1764lb cannon from 200 years of marine growth, Nigel Erskine, the team leader, announced from the smallest remaining British overseas territory. He said the operation was achieved under complex and demanding sea conditions in Pitcairn's Bounty Bay. The expedition, which began in September, was designed to shed fresh light on one of history's most enduring seafaring sagas. The wreck of *HMS Bounty*, which carried Fletcher Christian and his mutineers to Pitcairn in 1789 so that they could avoid being recaptured by the British, has been slowly eroded by the Pacific surf, but part of the timber and many of the vessel's artefacts lie buried in sand.

One of the mutineers, apparently terrified that the Royal Navy would find them, set fire to the *Bounty*, allowing the crew to stay undetected on the island until 1808. The fire is well-documented, but may well have been against Christian's orders. The Australian researchers are hoping to find evidence of personal possessions on the wreck, which would suggest that the blaze was quick and surprised the rest of the crew. So far the

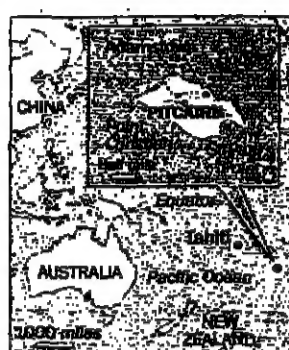
team has retrieved rigging, hull timbers, cannon balls and grapeshot.

The Australians have also excavated the original house of John Adams, who was found by a whaling vessel in 1808. He kept no written records and gave differing accounts of his time there to visiting sailors.

Christian and the seven men who led the mutiny against Captain William Bligh had sailed the *Bounty* from Tahiti to escape British Admiralty justice.

Apart from Adams, they all died within a few years. Polynesians murdered five of them. The British Admiralty sent the *HMS Pandora* to capture the mutineers but Christian and his band hiding on Pitcairn were never found by the *Pandora*'s crew.

Mr Erskine, a postgraduate student at James Cook University, is keen to know how such a motley crew of subversives mixed with Polynesians and created such an extraordinary society.



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www.library.puc.edu/pitcairn/ — the Pitcairn Islands Study Centre

Russians lured by promise of US servitude

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

DISENCHANTED with the worsening economic situation in Russia, many of the country's newly unemployed are fleeing to America to work as servants for rich expatriate Russians.

Lured by newspaper advertisements promising well-paid work abroad, hundreds of highly qualified people have parted with the hefty fee demanded by the illegal agencies and have accepted jobs as housekeepers, nannies and gardeners thousands of miles from home.

Wealthy Russians who have established themselves in America are notoriously loath to employ the Filipino staff favoured by their US country parts, according to *Sogodny* newspaper. They are also keen for their children to be cared for by Russian speakers. Although the agencies take a £70 joining fee and the first four weeks' wages, the work, at around £150 a week plus food and board, is far more lucrative than anything available at home, where the average wage is less than £50 a month.

"I have two children and my husband can't find work," says Olga Tarasov, who has just signed up with an agency that she hopes will find her domestic work not too far from New York. "My cousin is a nanny for a Russian family in New York and the agency promised me I wouldn't have problems getting a visa if I was leaving my children behind."

Sogodny cited the case of woman identified only as Irina, who earned thousands of dollars working as a housekeeper for a Russian-American family and returned to Russia to start her own employment agency. The newspaper described Irina's light workload and heavy pay packet with awe. It said the family she served always ate ready-made food that needed only to be heated up and that they owned so many hi-tech domestic appliances that Irina barely had to exert herself at all.

China rights talks doomed, dissident says

Beijing: A pioneer of China's democracy struggle said yesterday he saw little hope of progress in Chinese-American talks on human rights because of the Beijing leadership. 1999 was "a special year" in terms of political symbolism (James Pringle writes). The talks resumed in Washington yesterday in a gloomy mood after a five-year hiatus and in the middle of a political crackdown in China.

"It's the tenth anniversary of Tianan-

men suppression, the twentieth anniversary of Democracy Wall and the fiftieth anniversary of the Communists coming to power," said Ren Wandong, 53, a veteran dissident who is also connected to the formation of a new democratic party that Beijing views as a challenge to the Communist Party's monopoly on power.

Mr Ren said that the Chinese economy was depressed and millions of workers were being laid off. "The more difficult the

economic situation is, the more harshly they will treat dissidents."

China broke off the talks in mid-1994, after American human rights officials met the dissident Wei Jingsheng, during a visit to Beijing. Mr Wei is now an exile in America.

President Jiang Zemin agreed to resume the dialogue during his summit with President Clinton last year, but has now pledged to nip dissent in the bud.



Myles Tierney, 34, an AP television cameraman killed on Sunday by rebels in Freetown, with locals last year

New assault on Freetown rebels

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FIERCE fighting flared up again in Freetown yesterday as Nigerian-led intervention forces launched a counter-attack to drive rebels from the port and eastern part of Sierra Leone's capital.

The foreign ministers of Togo and the Ivory Coast arrived to begin intensive efforts to secure a ceasefire. Arriving at Lungi airport, they were expected to meet President Kabbah, who has taken shelter at the airport and today San-koh, the rebel leader who was sentenced to death for treason last October.

With food running short and water and electricity cut off, residents in the battle zone cowered in their homes, fearful of the marauding rebels who seized a number of civilian hostages to use as human shields after looting and burning their houses.

Reporters and troops reported many bodies still lying in the streets. The Ecomog pro-government troops, reinforced by about 500 Nigerians at the

weekend, pushed into the eastern part of Freetown and cleared rebels from the seat of government. Helicopters and fighter jets flew sorties from the airport, strafing and bombing rebel strongholds.

General Timothy Sheldip, commanding the West African forces, said his men were pushing southeast towards the eastern suburbs of the capital. He said the rebels would be driven from the capital in the next few days. "We are very confident about the situation in Freetown."

The fighting has raised questions in Nigeria, where newspapers have called for the troops' return. But the Defence Ministry said it was committed to the operation and would not abandon President Kabbah. Yesterday Nigeria held a meeting of regional foreign ministers to discuss the fighting, which some commentators said could leave Sierra Leone without a government and racked by the same anarchy that grips Somalia.

easy@demon[no.3]

across

1 first letter of alphabet (1)

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However, for the 626-member assembly, often maligned as the "mother-in-law" of parliaments, the duel with the executive risks

"We have a bad record for messing things up and there's a danger that we will make fools of ourselves by the end of the week," said a French Socialist MEP.

Since 1991, when the Maastricht treaty widened the Parliament's

limited powers, the Euro-assembly has marched its troops up the hill several times to face the Commission and governments only to shuffle away from battle. Its onslaught two years ago against the Commission over its handling of Britain's BSE crisis came to nothing.

Thursday's censure vote over Commission mismanagement, although far more serious, has the ingredients for collapse through party infighting and national interest.

The fight over the Commission has battle-lines that cut across the two main political blocs. The domi-

However, many of the German Christian Democrats, with an eye to the forthcoming elections, are on the warpath against the Commission. The British Conservatives are flinching from censure but have backed an alternative scheme, launched by the Liberals, to try to pick off individual Commissioners.

An obstacle to the Parliament's emergence as a real force is the failure of EU governments to fix its location. The heavy travel burden of MEPs is compounded by the bizarre practice in which their whole institution shuttles once a month between Brussels and Strasbourg, 400 miles apart. The Parliament has

critics to vote for it. She underestimated the depth of MEPs' anger. She had effectively handed a weapon to the hardline anti-Santer forces and now finds herself the

Many MEPs say the clumsy procedures this week show the need to give the Parliament more precise weapons to discipline the Commission than the existing blunderbuss of censure. Its powers in this field are already to be extended under the Treaty of Amsterdam, which takes effect this spring. The Parliament will then have the right to veto the member states' choice of the Commission President to succeed Mr. Santer next January.



The sages of the Académie pointed out that "euro zone" was already used by the Bank of France and government offices, yet they still face the traditional problem with defending the French tongue: almost nobody uses "euro zone" while the vast majority are as familiar with "euroland" as they are with "Disneyland".

John Laughland, page 16

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

the Chancellor said after meeting Mr Santer and the other Commissioners in Bonn. Mr Santer said he had already drawn up plans for an intra-institutional working group and added that "we could expand

Herr Schröder made plain that the German Government wanted the Commission to stay in place. "My respect for freely-elected parliamentarians is such that I will not pub-

For his part, Mr Santer said he was not championing either Helmut Kohl, the former German Chancellor, or Romano Prodi, the former Italian

hanced powers which might allow individual Commissioners — rather than the whole team — to seek votes of confidence from the European Parliament, avoiding a repeat of this week's crisis.

Jakarta: Warring tribes in a remote forest region of Irian Jaya have suspended hostilities so that they can watch a road being built, the *Jakarta Post* reported. "This is the first time for these people to see motorcycles and other vehicles," an official was quoted as saying. The newspaper said some people had walked for four days through the forests of the vast eastern Indonesian province to see helicopters bringing motorcycles, lorries and construction equipment. (Reuters)

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

They would announce a "proper response" to ensure public order, Signor D'Alema said. Newspaper reports said the crackdown would involve the deployment of nearly a thousand extra police.

The authorities are also worried by an apparent resurgence of Mafia violence in the South after several years in which a crackdown had brought relative calm. Yesterday police in Sicily rounded up 20 mafiosi said to be involved in a gang which killed five people.

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60-72 months	9.49%
72-84 months	9.99%
84-96 months	10.49%
96-108 months	10.99%
108-120 months	11.49%

Period	Rate
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6-12 months	6.99%
12-24 months	7.49%
24-36 months	7.99%
36-48 months	8.49%
48-60 months	8.99%
60-72 months	9.49%
72-84 months	9.99%
84-96 months	10.49%
96-108 months	10.99%
108-120 months	11.49%

Period	Rate
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Clinton trial set for operatic climax

Legal team argues for dismissal of impeachment articles, writes
Bronwen Maddox in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton's lawyers yesterday filed a stinging 12-page defence to the impeachment charges threatening his presidency, denying "each and every material allegation against him".

The charges in the articles do not rise to the level of "high crimes and misdemeanours" as contemplated by the Founding Fathers, and they do not satisfy the rigorous constitutional standard applied through our nation's history," they argued, in a response delivered just minutes before the noon deadline.

Mr Clinton's defence, his formal response to the Senate's summons for the first presidential impeachment trial in 130 years, concluded with the blunt declaration that "the articles of impeachment should be dismissed". The document is signed by a small army of 11 lawyers, a symbol of the White House's determination to spare no resources in defending the President.

There was speculation yesterday that the whole Clinton legal team would walk up the steps of Capitol Hill later this week when the trial formally begins on the Senate floor, for a confrontation with the 13 managers of the House of Representatives, the prosecution. The trial could bring an operatic climax to the year-long swinsky saga, with the possibility that minor and major players in the drama, from Monica Lewinsky to White House secretary Betty Currie, will all assemble on the Senate stage, surrounded by choruses of lawyers and congressmen.

But the White House and Senate moderates are still hoping for a curtailed trial in which no witnesses are called and the Senate votes early to dismiss the charges, perhaps in the compromise of a formal censure.

Slightly tempering the force of its response, the White House yesterday seemed set to old back from filing a formal motion calling on the Senate to dismiss the charges immediately. Leading Democrats on Capitol Hill had said they would be furious if Mr Clinton

filed such a motion, as he would seem to be thumbing his nose at the carefully-constructed Senate consensus.

The Senate spent the weekend in a happy mood of self-congratulation for having reached a cross-party pact on how to hold at least the early stages of the trial. That has proved tactical gold dust, leaving both the White House and the House of Representatives unsettled, suddenly deferential to the upper house.

The House managers were audaciously debating yesterday whether to file motions to shape the course of the trial by the deadline of 5pm. The White House will now wait until after the opening presentations to call for the case to be thrown out.

But as the first stage of the trial began, it became clear that open warfare between the parties may simply have been postponed for several weeks, until they decide whether to call witnesses. The House is adamant that the Senate must call six to 10 witnesses, including Ms Lewinsky.

"It is uncomfortable to listen to what happened in the Oval Office," said Representative Lindsey Graham, a member of the prosecution team. "But to give [Mr Clinton] the legal benefit because his conduct... is uncomfortable is the wrong message to send."

But Tom Daschle, leader of the Democratic minority in the Senate, is battling to avoid calling witnesses on the grounds that nothing new would be added to the volumes of documents.

Democratic Senator Tim Wirth from South Dakota said: "I feel more optimistic that we are not going to have another OJ trial - that we can avoid something that goes on and on." He said that the Senate might be able to dispense with witnesses altogether.

Mr Clinton spent yesterday meeting President Menem of Argentina to discuss drug trafficking and Iraq. He is determined to press ahead with his State of the Union address next week despite pressure from senators to postpone it.



Hillary Clinton recalled less tumultuous days yesterday when she launched a commemorative dollar to honour Dolley Madison, wife of James Madison, the fourth President. Mrs Madison, pictured on the book held by Mrs Clinton, is the first First Lady to be immortalised in this way



Larry Flynt, publisher of the pornographic magazine Hustler, has vowed to expose adultery in high places

Porn king set to pounce

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH
IN WASHINGTON

THE capital was in a state of anxiety last night as Larry Flynt, the pornographer, prepared to "out" a batch of adulterous members of Congress.

For those who have spent the past few weeks wondering if it was their indiscretions that were to be exposed, the wait was almost over. Mr Flynt, who publishes the magazine Hustler, had promised to expose a dozen politicians, all but one Republican, to demonstrate that those sitting in judgment on President Clinton were hypocrites.

According to his office six cases were ready to be published and the details of another six were being compiled.

Mr Flynt was planning to hold a press conference in Los Angeles last night. The pornographer said he had been inundated with information about the infidelities of people in public life after he placed

newspaper advertisements last year offering a reward of up to \$1 million (\$606,000) to those who could prove they had extramarital affairs with congressmen or senators or other high-profile politicians.

Rumours in Washington have encompassed every conceivable sleazy story, from the use of teenage Mexican prostitutes by one Republican to homosexual affairs and dalliances with conspicuously over-promoted secretaries.

Allan MacDonell, Editor of Hustler, said that six affairs were "signed, sealed and delivered with affidavits and corroborating evidence", and involved "people who go on TV and keep attacking Clinton".

He said most of the victims had already suspected they were on the hit-list but one individual continued to bait Mr Clinton. "There's this one guy, I don't see how he can keep posturing the way he is. I mean, he's got to know," Hustler whittled down

claims of 250 affairs to 30 that were checked by private investigators. Mr MacDonell said no one had been paid \$1 million but Mr Flynt is expected to spend \$4 million in total.

Bob Livingston, the incoming Speaker of the House of Representatives, resigned last month over a report that he had a string of extramarital affairs. Mr Flynt denied that he was the source of this information, but admitted that his team had been investigating the Louisiana representative.

When he launched his campaign, Mr Flynt said he wanted to expose "hypocrisy in its highest form". He was referring to those in the House and Senate who have been weighing the case against President Clinton. "People always lie about sex - to get sex, during sex, after sex, about sex. I totally disagree that perjury [in such a case] is perjury. Lying about your private life, even under oath, is totally different," he said.

Albright dashes spy's hope of freedom

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

JONATHAN POLLARD, the American jailed for life for spying for Israel, seemed unlikely to receive clemency last night after new details emerged about his espionage activities. It was also reported that Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, had recommended that he should not be released.

At the Middle East summit last year, President Clinton promised Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, that he would look into the case for leniency towards Pollard, a former US Navy analyst who was arrested in 1985 and jailed for providing secret documents to Israel.

But in a confidential recommendation, Ms Albright told Mr Clinton there was no foreign policy reason to release Pollard and no basis for overriding the views of the US intelligence community that he should remain in prison, according to senior officials quoted by the Associated Press.

Mr Clinton is expected to make a decision soon on the case, but Ms Albright's recommendation, combined with the vehement belief of George Tenet, director of the CIA, that Pollard should remain incarcerated, is likely to seal his fate.

An article by the investigative journalist Seymour Hersh in yesterday's New Yorker magazine cites the views of intelligence officials who believe Pollard did more damage to national security than has previously been revealed.

Hersh says that documents which Pollard handed over to Israel included a directory of signals intercepted by the National Security Agency, providing insights into American spying techniques. Intelligence officials have long believed that the documents ended up in the hands of the intelligence services of the then Soviet Union.

Some CIA sources believe Israel used Pollard to obtain the US attack plan against the former Soviet Union. Some of the material was exchanged with Moscow for Jewish scientists, according to one Middle East CIA station chief.

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		Bank account for 11-20 year olds			
2.00	2.02	Student/Graduates	1.75	1.76	
		Bank account - interest paid monthly			
Savings					
Old Rate per annum (%)	Old Rate per annum (%)	Balance	New Rate per annum (%)	Old Rate per annum (%)	New Rate per annum (%)
6.25	6.40	TESSA Reserve	6.00	6.14	
		1 Year Fixed - No Withdrawal			
		Cash Reserve			
5.85	5.98	£250,000 - £249,999	5.60	5.72	
5.75	5.88	£100,000 - £249,999	5.50	5.61	
5.45	5.56	£50,000 - £99,999	5.20	5.30	
4.50	4.58	£25,000 - £49,999	4.25	4.32	
4.00	4.06	£10,000 - £24,999	3.75	3.80	
3.45	3.49	£2,000 - £9,999	3.20	3.24	
		Diamond Reserve			
5.55	5.69	£100,000 - £99,999	5.30	5.43	
5.25	5.38	£50,000 - £49,999	5.00	5.12	
4.50	4.59	£25,000 - £49,999	4.25	4.33	
4.00	4.07	£10,000 - £24,999	3.75	3.82	
3.45	3.51	£2,000 - £9,999	3.20	3.25	
		Reward Reserve			
3.45	3.49	Instant access - interest paid quarterly	3.20	3.24	
3.20	3.24	£2,000 - £9,999	2.95	2.98	
		including all conditional rewards			
5.70	5.76	£10,000 - £24,999	5.45	5.50	
5.45	5.50	£2,000 - £9,999	5.20	5.24	
		Premier Reserve			
4.05	4.11	£50,000 - £49,999	3.80	3.85	
3.95	4.01	£25,000 - £49,999	3.70	3.75	
3.70	3.75	£10,000 - £24,999	3.45	3.49	
3.35	3.39	£2,000 - £9,999	3.10	3.14	
		First Reserve			
2.85	2.88	£1,000 - £999	2.60	2.63	
2.60	2.63	£500 - £999	2.35	2.37	
1.50	1.51	£250 - £499	1.25	1.26	
1.35	1.36	£100 - £249	1.10	1.10	
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The rates for all other personal savings accounts remain unchanged. Where applicable, lower rates will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid. The Gross Rate is the rate paid before deducting income tax. The Annual Equivalent Rate (AER) is a national rate which shows the gross interest rate including any rewards (interest payable on a fixed term and compounded on an annual basis). The AER shows includes all conditional rewards (interest payable, compounding quarterly interest monthly at 1.75% gross per annum and an annual interest reward of 0.50% gross per annum. Quarterly rewards are payable provided the account balance does not fall below £2,000 and no more than one withdrawal is made in any quarter. The account remains in credit and no more than three annual rewards are made in any year. Should you close your account during a quarterly or annual period you will not receive any quarterly or annual reward for that period. For details of other interest rates please call at your local branch or visit our website: www.natwest.co.uk. All rates are subject to variation.

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Clothes fastener undoes bigfoot's fancy-dress act

Close analysis threatens a cherished US myth, writes
Giles Whittell

TALL, brown and hairy, she lies over a stream bed into dense forest, leaving only a set of giant footprints and a few seconds of scratchy 16mm film in the hands of two excited backwoodsmen.

The film, shot by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin in a remote corner of northern California in 1967, has served true believers ever since as sacred proof of the existence of the fabled bigfoot. In this case a lone female caught dawdling in the Six Rivers National Forest near the Oregon border. Two analysts now say it is a hoax.

Deconstructing the Patterson-Gimlin film frame by frame with the help of colour photocopies and computers, a Canadian bigfoot buff claims he has identified a man-made fastener at the creature's waist that reveals it not a feral descendant of *Gigantopithecus* but a human in a bulky suit.

The fastener, roughly the shape of a bottle opener, can be seen swinging against the creature's coat in four adjacent frames of the film. Chris Murphy of Vancouver claims after an exhaustive analysis that has put an entire sub-culture of bigfoot loyalists on the defensive.

"It was a hoax. How can an artificial, man-made object end up on a bigfoot?" asked Cliff Crook, a fellow sceptic who has publicised Mr Murphy's findings. Both men have been branded traitors to a fondly-preserved myth with

parallels in the Himalayan yeti legend and literary echoes as old as Jonathan Swift's "yahoos".

"Unlike the yeti, however, its American cousin has stalwart backers in academia. 'I fully accept the Patterson film,' said Professor Grover Krantz, an anthropologist at Washington State University in Seattle who dismisses the Murphy analysis as amateur and irrelevant. 'If there was a fastener it could not be seen in an enlargement,' he said. 'The film grain is such that it cannot hold an image of something that small.'"

Tell-tale signs of bigfoot activity include flattened grass, twisted foliage and, above all, the stench of its musk, according to believers. Messrs Patterson and Gimlin confirmed all these on that October day in 1967, insists Roy Crowe, president of the Western Bigfoot Society. The image in their film "has a fluid motion; it's a wild creature of nature," he said at the weekend. In fact it is blurred, jerky, and probably a prank.



The alleged bigfoot approaches a stream in a frame from the disputed 1967 Patterson-Gimlin film

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Guardian man and a secret love

How can you tell if your lover is infatuated with another? The surest giveaway is "mentionitis". A condition first identified in the best-selling guide to doomed love, *Bridget Jones's Diary*, it is a killer clue more ominous than lipstick on the collar. If a particular name crops up consistently in your partner's conversation at the oddest points, a repetitive invocation of "Mark" this or "Mary" that, then that really is it. Now's the time to make the traditional preparations for parting — arranging a jungle trip to South America, calling your agent and negotiating serialisation rights.

Margaret Cook had to live for years with the knowledge that her husband was fascinated by another. The telltale signs were there, even when Robin Cook spoke disparagingly of his mistress. The leader of the Labour Party also has an obsession; so does the Editor of *The Guardian*. But do their regular partners read the signs?

Tony Blair can't help mentioning his mentor, in a manner which recalls Mr Darcy's attitude towards Elizabeth Bennett. The superficial disdain cannot mask the consistency of that woman's hold on the imagination. Mr Blair may claim to hate her, but he's clearly besotted with Margaret Thatcher.

He invited comparisons between his 1997 manifesto and her's in 1979 and then sought to claim the Government's handling of Diana's death was "his Falklands". Some might



Michael Gove

consider it required rather greater steel to send a task force halfway across the world to raise the Union Jack than to send a spin-doctor up the Mall to lower the Royal Standard, but in love it's the thought that counts.

But this particular affair is likely to end just as the first Oswald infatuation did — in tragedy. Mrs Thatcher's success sprang from her willingness to defy consensus and risk unpopularity. She won admirers because she walked alone. Mr Blair is afraid to stand out in Europe, unprepared to divorce himself from the fashionable and incapable of distancing himself from reliance on Peter Mandelson. He wills the end without daring the means. Faint heart never won from Lady.

The same sickness of the heart afflicts another on the left. The Editor of *The Guardian* is a man in the grip of a doomed obsession. Although Alan Rusbridger devoted two pages of his newspaper yesterday to how he fell in love with the Net, the real object of his infatuation is another global media phenomenon.

The name is mentioned, almost every day, in his paper. And the image of the one who holds him in thrall has been transformed into an icon. Just as Renaissance artists had to incorporate the face of their muse on murals, or latter-day lovers hire Piccadilly Circus neon signs to make their proposals, so *The Guardian's* Editor has decorated billboards across the country with the profile of his obsession, and a brief quote from the beloved. The face that launched these thousand clips? Rupert Murdoch's.

Of course, *The Guardian* protests that it hates the dark prince of print. It really detests him. Oh God, can't stand the vulgar creature. But it won't

stop mentioning his name. In an editorial yesterday it even managed to blame him for this Government's woes. Talk about counter-intuitive. The idea that the real source of recent trouble is neither Brown nor Mandelson but an international media magnate shows a disregard for the obvious which is the hallmark of obsessiveness.

It is, on one level, an example not so much of shooting the messenger as riddling the post office with artillery fire. But, on a deeper level, it reflects a man not fully in control of his feelings. We can imagine Mr Rusbridger confiding in a friend, like Jude, discussing her obsession with the dastardly Vile Richard in *Bridget Jones's Diary*: "I hate him, I hate him, I hate him, (sob)... oh God, why does he do this to me, I can't get him out of my mind." Or out of the paper.

Guardian writers blame Mr Murdoch for Tony Blair's failure to sign instantly up to the euro. *The Guardian* itself holds him daily responsible for lowering the tone of our national life. It won't be long before they claim he invented the millennium bug.

Yesterday, most curiously of all, the paper's Editor celebrated the unregulated vitality of the Net and yet his editorial, which blamed Mr Murdoch for Labour's crisis, attacked the mogul's papers for their unregulated vitality.

The Guardian did not seek to deny that the Labour Party was divided, merely that the fact should not be reported. "The feud," it noted, "had always been known among Westminster hands, but now Labour factionalism has been dragged into the journalistic mainstream."

Naughty Mr Murdoch, letting the readers of his 30-penny-dreadful in on all this ministerial wrongdoing. Next thing we know, he will be printing their hotel bills.

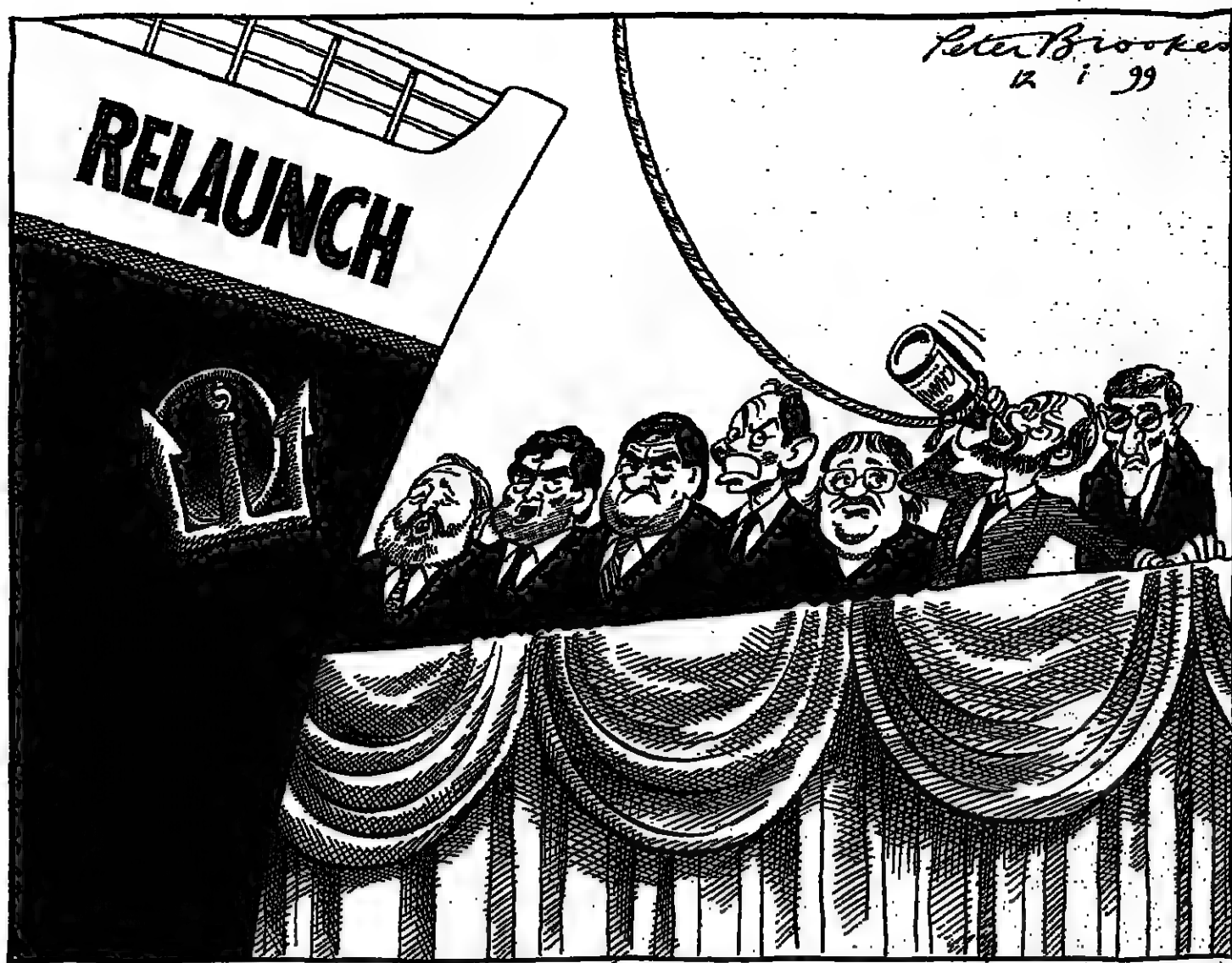
The reason for *The Guardian's* fascination with Mr Murdoch is that he encourages what it claims to promote — free thinking. His newspapers, like the Net itself, are driven by public demand and the creativity of chaotic, cock-smoking, individuals.

In his essay on the Internet yesterday Mr Rusbridger admits to his fascination with Junius, the anonymous 18th-century writer who "caused so much trouble with his prose that he was charged with sedition". *The Guardian* is dedicated, like all good newspapers, to causing trouble. Just ask Jonathan Aitken. But it cannot come to terms with the fact that the greatest godfather of mischief in print is Mr Murdoch. And it particularly resents the 18th-century pamphleteering vigour of his newspapers' assaults on its own liberal heroes.

Newspapers today are not yet as savage as Georgian writers or caricaturists were in their denunciation of the pock-ridden, dropical, thieving politicians of their time. More's the pity. But Richard Littlejohn, Peter Brookes and Matthew Parris do their best.

The knowledge that these hacks all toil in the infernal regions of Wapping may bring Mr Rusbridger out in rash. But his irritation is the sincerest form of flattery.

michael.gove@the-times.co.uk



A divorce of convenience

All of Labour's futile spinning cannot conceal the real question in the Cook story

Yes, of course I read the Cook-book extract. Avidly, if you must know. But I still wish she hadn't done it, or had disguised it as a witty novel. After all, *cui bono*? The only test of any action is whether it does good; and who can possibly benefit from this post-marital character assassination?

Not Robin Cook, certainly. There are no grounds for thinking that a public list of his faults will make him humble, repentant, and resolved to lead a better life. Not Margaret Cook: despite the money, I suspect that she will come to regret having intertemporally breached the privacy of a marriage that endured 20 years of her life. Nor will their two adult sons reap any advantage. Either they know all there is to know about their father's adulteries and arrogance, or they would rather not. Or, at least, would rather it was not in *The Sunday Times*.

The reputation of marriage as an institution cannot benefit, either. Exposing a partner's infidelities is justifiable because infidelity is a great betrayal and it takes saintlike virtue not to proclaim it. But exposing lesser faults, oddly enough, is far less excusable. Call me old-fashioned, but it seems to me that one of the great things to be said for being married is the combination of company and privacy. This one can (occasionally) pass out cold on the dining-room floor hugging a bottle of brandy, bad-mouth one's colleagues, dent the car, forget to cancel the papers, suffer what the ladylike doctor calls "superficially stress-related problems" in marital relations, have a spot of memory loss, shout at the children, and bang down grudging cheques on the kitchen table with a "harsh stream of expletives", while all the time having the security of knowing that you are among friends — one friend, the best kind — and therefore will not be graced upon to the newspapers.

This is not to excuse chronically bad or violent behaviour, meriting a walkout. But in the normal way of things we all sober up, apologise to spouses and children, take the tablets, practise smiling into the mirror and go out again, image undented, to face the cruel world. I have always thought of this as a permanent contract, part of the marital deal and not to be nullified even by divorce. It is my earnest hope that when I run off with a 22-year-old personal trainer, my spouse will stick to exposing my infidelity, and not start going into

shaming details about grey underwear, leaving the knife in the jampan, how I bought expensive three-dimensional jigsaws and never did them, or any harsh streams of expletives I may have let fly about Times colleagues in the privacy of a bottle of Laphroaig.

No: she shouldn't have done it. But there is one area in which the book might benefit sober government. This is the story, newly amplified, of what happened at the airport when the Cooks were leaving for their holiday in August 1997.

Mrs Cook's account — never challenged — says that they were "rehabilitated" and full of happy plans when a message came for Mr Cook to ring Alastair Campbell, the PM's press officer. He went quiet; in the VIP lounge, he said: "I am afraid there won't be any holiday. It's cancelled. The *News of the World* is running the story of my affair with Gaynor on Sunday. I can't leave the country. I think you and I should part."

There was also a conversation with Mr Blair, she says, in which Cook kept saying "I understand. I understand" and after which he announced "I shan't lose my job". Then, despite his wife's expressed wish, he declared the marriage over. In an interview accompanying the book, Mrs Cook spells it out: "He coldly weighed up the consequences of dropping either her or me and thought that, if he dropped her, she would have made life very difficult for him."

Worse, she also believes that the press secretary and the PM forced a snap decision for "news clarity". "I've no idea what ultimatum he received from Campbell and Blair — but they clearly wanted to avoid the image of his having a bit on the side and dropping her as soon as the affair was revealed. The image of a genuine, impassioned love affair and a stale marriage was one the public might more easily be

persuaded to believe and accept."

Now, this is serious stuff, and does belong in the public domain. Most hardnosed pundits seem to accept it as a justifiably macho political decision, but to a normal conscience it is, as Peter Mandelson might put it, gut-wrenching stuff. No husband and wife, however rocky the marriage, should ever be put in such a position by an employer. Yet Mrs Cook's theory is uncomfortably plausible: although it is a step beyond adultery, in the age of serial marriage the idea of a grand passion is easier to sell than the risible cliché of the philanderer who furiously stalks home, in Orwell's unforgettable phrase, with "the juice of the forbidden fruit dripping from his whiskers". It is a matter of record that the "grand passion" line has since been fed to us assiduously — remember Cook's crass line about his never having known more happiness, and the "lovely lady"?

The whole thing smells of black magic, spin-magic, the weaving of glib stories. Robin Cook's career (doomed now, and who cares) is no longer the issue. Mr Blair and Mr Campbell should level with us. Tell us — or play us the tapes — of exactly what was said to the Foreign Minister at the airport. Did they tell him that image was more important than marriage? That focus groups suggest 23 per cent more sympathy for passionate second marriages than for two-timing liars? Or did they uphold human and family values and calmly suggest that he make a statement after a thoughtful holiday? What did he mean by "I understand... I understand...?"

It is not pleasant to contemplate. I never thought I would be nostalgic for Cecil Parkinson, but perhaps it was the lesson of Parkinson which the panicking news-managers remembered. He went back to his wife, remember, after a period of

dithering, but it was the dithering that scuppered him (ruined by the wonderful Bernard Levin comment that this man "organises his private life in a novel manner", by promising to share his future with whichever lady has most recently spoken sharply to him"). Maybe Labour crudely advised Mr Cook to avoid the *Fatal Attraction* trap, pacify the potential bunny-boiler and rely on the stiff upper lip of his nice Scottish doctor wife to stay bunned. If this is true, it stinks. If not, tell us so, plainly.

News management is the curse of the age, only just behind its parasitic twin, media intrusion. It should not be necessary for a Government with a big mandate. Mr Brown says that this is the week when new Labour begins to "deliver", and we are promised a daily flurry of policy initiatives. Mr Blair begs to be judged only on the Government's effects, not the character of its ministers.

OK then: show, don't tell. Stop nagging us, stop feeding us meaningless phrases, stop showing off on television and bombarding us with boringly righteous newspaper columns pretending to be by the PM's own hand. Stop holding silly, sick photocalls in which a gruff bachelor Chancellor helps a reluctant toddler to cut his cake. These things masquerade as tools of democracy and open government, while in fact they have the opposite purpose: to bamboozle and confuse.

In the name of God, chaps, just do it: pay nurses properly, support schools (not just by distributing yet more expensive doorstops labelled Numeracy Hour). Give up gifts and salons, and listen more carefully to the thousand unglamorous, hardworking lobby groups who from close to the ground can express the problems of hospitals, of prisons, farms, schools, inner cities, families, countryside. Do the boring stuff. Work out a proper policy about whether we are in Europe or not. Find somewhere for the street-sleepers to go, and back the charities which get them back on their feet. Make the trains run properly, or rationalise them. Be nicer to Clare Short. Get Frank Field back. Promote Kate Hoey. Be dour and honest, transparent with the records but sparing of comment.

And when ministers get into human muddles, and the press finds out, just keep your damn spoon out of the pudding.

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Libby Purves



Lunch hunch

FFION JENKINS seeks dosh from Blair crony. Or so one of those downmarket newspapers might try to make hay from an innocent lunch. There was the wife of the Tory leader (below left), looking delicious, sitting opposite Lord Alli (right), the Labour aesthete and donor, at the Ivy yesterday.

Michael Portillo and Ed Victor looked on, faintly puzzled. So what was the purpose of the rendezvous? "Waheed is a prominent businessman," Ffion, director of the Association of Business Sponsorship for the Arts (ABSA), tells me. "I was updating him on new ideas and was meeting on ABSA business." Hmm. But the Tories could do with a new benefactor.

THE backbiting continues. Westminster still buzzes with tales about my friend Peter Mandelson, despite his fall from grace. One such story goes that, so besieged by newspaper Johnnies was he over Christmas, that his good friend from Brazil, Rinaldo Avila de Silva, was a prisoner in his house for a few days. The poor thing had to rely on the disgraced minister's snacks, brought up to the boys' room where he was apparently hiding. Benjamin Wegg-Frosser, Peter's able helper, is as appalled as I am by the claim: "As far as I know, there's no one else living in the house."

Joint action

DISCREETLY, Jack Straw has plugged the loophole that allowed papers to identify his son as a cannabis seller. The Home Secretary has added a line to the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill preventing young net-dwellers from being named. Papers embarrassed Straw by disclosing William's identity after realising that, as the proceedings were not "active", he could be named. Ministers, and offspring, can smoke in peace.

AFTER the billious resignation of Sir David Gore-Booth from the Foreign Office, he wants a bank job. His old boss, Lord Hurd of Westwell, trousers £250,000 a year from NatWest Markets, and Sir David might get on the board of HSBC, which has taken over the less than smart Midland Bank.

Newsround

SIR NORMAN FOSTER has been asked by Sir John Birt to design a new home for the BBC's news folk at Bush House. Despite having just spent £400 million moving Jeremy Paxman and Co into a modish home at White City, the B-G is now keen to move back to the centre of town. The plans include developing



everything on the Aldwych island "Shepherd's Bush has its charm but they are hidden," Michael Buerk, splendid newscaster, tells me. "We could move to Surrey an commute from Charing Cross."

IS Tony Banks bored with his laddish image? The Sports Minister, dressed in a three-piece suit, refused to walk onto a football pitch yesterday for a photocall because it was "too muddy".

Tinseltalk

CINEMATIC giants, by Sir Anita Hopkins: "You've got these 'genuses', who talk film-school language. The metaphor of the movie. I don't know what they're talking about. You've got Taranino talking about Orson Welles. Bogdanovich talking about Orson. It's clatrap." Just so.

JASPER GERARD

The Bank of England should be privatised; it should mint a gold sovereign; and banknotes should be convertible on demand

John Laughland

When politicians start calling for stability, free-marketeers should reach for their revolvers. First in the firing-line should be the French President, Jacques Chirac, and the Japanese Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi. At the weekend they joined a chorus begun by Gordon Brown and Bill Clinton's Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin. Trying to manage a national economy in a competitive world appears to be too difficult, so they are trying to manage the world to make it less competitive.

They all argue for new international regulation of financial markets. It is not surprising that their answer is more regulation. But it is odd that liberal economists concede one of the regulators' premises. They agree that

world markets are pretty free, and thus say there is no problem. But there is a problem. Markets are not free enough.

The currency speculator George Soros argued last week that global markets were "inherently unstable" and that the IMF should become "something resembling an international central bank". He was echoing recommendations made by Mr Brown and Mr Rubin.

Mr Brown has peppered a series of speeches with references to the need for "a financial architecture for the new global economy", "global financial relations", and "new global structures for the new global age". Mr Rubin has argued that "we must substantially improve the architecture of the international financial system in order to better

prevent crises in the future".

The idea that world financial markets are unregulated is, of course, precisely what free marketeers should like about them. But nothing could be further from the truth. All currencies are pure state creations: they are not titles to any property or commodity and their value depends on how well the government or the central bank manages them. Any state-controlled good is bound to fluctuate wildly in value because the state is a very clumsy regulator of supply. As the Soviet experience showed, state products swing from being in absurd surplus to chronic deficit.

The fact that financial instruments and trading technology

have developed so greatly is no indication that the market is freer. You might as well argue that the development of burglar alarm technology is evidence of improved public security.

Prior to 1914, broadly speaking, a banknote was a receipt for gold deposited with a bank. The holder could redeem it for that coin. Consequently the currency was a commodity, obeying the normal laws of supply and demand.

Between 1914 and 1971 a series of state-inspired assaults were mounted to destroy this natural order and to nationalise the control of money. States simply absolved central banks of their

obligation to redeem their bank notes, in cash. It is just as if a private bank refused to honour its cheques or denied account holders access to their own money. The introduction of the euro is only the latest example of states colluding to strip citizens of rights, and it is because inconvertible paper currencies are an enormous accretion of state power that EMU is such an important constitutional issue.

Throughout British history — until recently — support for free trade and gold as the currency have been conjugated together. The theories of Adam Smith are incommensurable without understanding his support for metallic currencies which did not depend on the State. Richard Cobden, the Liberal who led the Manchester

laissez-faire movement, wrote: "I hold all idea of regulating the currency to be an absurdity. The currency should regulate itself; it must be regulated by the trade and commerce of the world."

The right response to global regulation is not to support the status quo of state-sponsored world monetary disorder. It is to return to the monetary regime Britain traditionally championed. The Bank of England should be privatised; it should mint a gold coin, the sovereign; and banknotes should be issued which are convertible on demand into it. It is only by re-establishing a rule-based monetary regime domestically that markets can be stabilised at the international level.

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A FRESH WIND

Brown takes the right course, Blair the wrong one

It was supposed to be the relaunch of the Government after the Mandelson affair; instead the Government is already planning the relaunch of Peter Mandelson. Tony Blair is said to be keen to reinstate his disgraced Trade Secretary in about 18 months' time, before the next general election. If he really wants voters to believe that Labour is different from "the last lot", he should remember the errors of the Major administration and determine not to repeat them.

Prime among the annoyances of the last Government was the lack of contrition that ministers showed when they made mistakes. This Government, in this affair, has been just as bad. Mr Mandelson protested on the day he resigned that he had not "done anything wrong or improper". Mr Blair was content to back him.

Yet the former Trade Secretary did something that was clearly both wrong and improper. Whether or not he misled the Britannia Building Society, he certainly neglected to ask his leader's permission to borrow a vast sum from a colleague only months before the election. Presumably he failed to do so for fear that the answer would be "no". And the answer would have been "no" because the arrangement with Geoffrey Robinson would have looked improper in government.

Once he was a minister, Mr Mandelson should have told the Prime Minister immediately of the loan. He should also have told his Permanent Secretary. That he did not do so was wrong, and it was improper. Mr Blair — a man who wears his morals heavily — must surely see this.

If so, why does he not understand the importance of making his former lieutenant pay proper penance for his misdemeanour? Some of Mr Blair's colleagues in the party who are demanding a lengthier sentence have another agenda: they always disliked Mr Mandelson and distrusted his politics. Their problems are their own. It is

still possible for those who support Labour's modernisation to argue that Mr Mandelson should spend a respectable period out of office before being considered for an invitation back.

The former Trade Secretary must yet learn to curb the hubris that led to his nemesis. Yet everything that Mr Blair is doing seems designed to bolster the overweening pride that is Mr Mandelson's weakness. It was because Mr Mandelson thought that he was not subject to the normal rules of politics that he took such a foolhardy risk. To be reinstated within 18 months also breaks the normal rules of politics: it would reinforce Mr Mandelson's delusions of exceptionalism.

So does his retention as a party ambassador liaising with Bodo Hombach of the German SPD. Their meeting last week in London was held not at party headquarters or in the House of Commons but at the Cabinet Office, presumably with the help of civil servants. Mr Mandelson must feel that his exile has been no longer than that of his fellow countrymen who had a break over Christmas and New Year.

The Prime Minister obviously misses his close friend immensely. He probably still feels dependent upon him for advice on policy, tactics and strategy. Yet, if what he most valued about Mr Mandelson was his judgment, should he not now, after his friend's startling lapse, begin to reassess his sources of advice?

Everyone is now trying to learn lessons from this debacle. A chastened Gordon Brown, for instance, delivered a word-perfect new Labour speech yesterday with fulsome praise for his friend and rival, Mr Blair. The Prime Minister himself must also think again. With Labour always looking for a fresh wind, he could let Mr Mandelson loose on campaigning before the election. But even "the last lot" would not have countenanced a return to office so soon after such a disgrace.

REAL GERMANS

Populist politics meet unpleasant prejudice

Germany's Christian Democrats and their sister party in Bavaria, the Christian Social Union, have been too preoccupied by the wrangling following their defeat in October to offer any challenge so far to Gerhard Schröder's coalition. But at the weekend the two parties confirmed that they are to go ahead with an action that is certain in the long run to damage both parties and provoke the kind of suspicion across Europe that would ill serve Bonn as it shoulders the European Union presidency.

At issue is the emotive question of race. Germany is one of the few countries in Western Europe that still equates citizenship with blood and soil. Under legislation passed in 1913, only foreigners who can lay claim to a German bloodline are entitled to German citizenship. Apart from the unpleasant association with the Nazis' Nuremberg laws on racial purity, the law is patently unsuited to today's conditions.

There are now some seven million foreigners living in Germany, of whom the largest group, the Turks, number over two million. Many arrived as *Gastarbeiter* in the 1960s, welcome hands to do the dirty jobs. Most did not return, and now their children, and even grandchildren, have grown up in Germany, speaking, feeling and acting German. Yet very few have been able to acquire German citizenship, and most are excluded from civic life, confined by a still suspicious population to mental and physical ghettos.

The anomaly of their status has become all the more glaring in view of the huge numbers of "ethnic" Germans who have flooded in from Romania and the former

Soviet Union. Most are the descendants of emigrants 200 years ago, speak little or no German and have little cultural affinity with the Federal Republic. They have been granted citizenship, housing, benefits and acceptance. Meanwhile, Bavaria recently deported to Istanbul a 14-year-old boy convicted of various offences even though he was born and bred in Germany.

The Social Democrats, responding to sharp criticism at home and abroad of such discrimination, announced the offer of dual citizenship to foreigners permanently resident. Most Turks want to keep their Turkish passports, partly to be eligible for inheritance in Turkey. But the CDU has begun a campaign, dragging in the CDU, to draw up a petition of protest. The Bavarians speak darkly of "mass immigration" and enfranchising terrorists, especially extremist Kurds. Responding to the xenophobia that shows itself all too often in the burning of asylum hostels and anti-Turkish violence, they are attempting to woo the far Right by exploiting the oft reiterated consensus that Germany is not a destination for immigrants.

These tactics are stupid and dangerous. The CDU, seeking also a populist cause, has balanced its support with a call for better integration of foreigners into German society. But it must know that the rhetoric of race, in Germany in particular, can carry politics to extremes. It should have no part in this wrong-headed appeal to prejudice. The Government should do what it has honourably proposed: grant belated civic equality to all those born and bred in Germany.

ONCE TWO IS TWO

And once upon a time children knew the rest

Schoolchildren have moaned about learning their times tables for centuries. An anonymous ditty from the end of the 16th century wails: "Multiplication is vexation. Division is as bad; The Rule of three doth puzzle me, and practice drives me mad." Since then, although pupils' suffering has been lessened by the invention of the calculator and the spread of fashionable education theories, a growing number of children leave school barely able to perform the most basic sums. Yesterday, David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, attempted to reverse this trend. Primary schoolchildren are to be taught more mental arithmetic, especially their tables. Calculators will be banned for children under eight. Such common sense is welcome and overdue — even though it might madden, vexate and puzzle pupils and their teachers.

Squeals from the classroom are unlikely to bother the Education Secretary. Mr Blunkett has promised to resign if, by 2002, three-quarters of 11-year-olds fail to achieve the standard expected for their age in mathematics and English. This is a challenging target as only 59 per cent achieved this in last year's maths tests. Mr Blunkett's willingness to fall on his sword shows admirable determination to meet his aim, and his strategy to raise standards reflects an insightful analysis of why standards are so low.

Like other subjects, the teaching of maths has been deconstructed by progressive

theorists. Instead of teachers imparting a body of knowledge which pupils learn, sometimes by rote, these educationists claim that children should discover mathematical skills by experience. The purpose of the subject has gradually switched from being less about proof than investigation. By guesswork and experimentation, pupils are to learn mental arithmetic on an individual voyage of discovery, often guided by a calculator, rather than being taught by a teacher instructing the whole class.

This approach has disastrous consequences. Having failed to master their times tables, young children lack the mental building blocks on which further progress depends. Some school-leavers are unable to add fractions or are ignorant of simple algebra. Without the mental crutch of a calculator, which hides arithmetic processes and magically produces the result to a sum, many children are baffled by such rudimentary challenges as calculating the cost of five items in a supermarket.

Tough measures are needed to cleanse schools of these corrosive theories which have permeated deep into the culture of English education. The Conservatives are right to caution about the dangers of over-zealous meddling in every school's affairs. But they should remember that numeracy, like literacy, is a basic skill which every parent expects their child to acquire, and which too many schools are failing to impart.

Nursing shortage and NHS decline

From Mr Roy Lilley

Sir, In as much as the shortage of nurses is contributing to the present ills of the National Health Service (reports and leading article, January 11), the difficulty is almost entirely of the nurses' own making.

Since the introduction of Project 2000 in 1990, nurse leaders have insisted on an almost exclusive graduate-entry training scheme for their members, effectively ending the apprenticeship approach to training. In consequence, student nurses are displaced from the NHS, attached to university departments, and spend far less time on the wards. Indeed, they are not even counted as part of the hospital complement.

Furthermore, as young graduates have a range of other careers open to them, nursing becomes increasingly less able to attract students from a world of work offering company cars and no shift-working. There are currently 13,000 vacancies for nurses in the United Kingdom, and in 1996-97, for the first time ever, there was a shortfall in candidates for nurse-training places.

There are approximately 400,000 nurses in the NHS and it is foolish to suppose they should, or could, all be graduates. The time has come for a review of nursing and to hasten the return of the state enrolled nurse, trained from the ranks of the bright and interested who may fall short of university requirements but could, nevertheless, be trained to do the job out of a sense of vocation.

Elite nurse leaders see an exclusive group of professionally qualified nurses as a way of leveraging up pay and improving status. It is a policy that is not realistic and has collapsed, doing irreparable damage, and is a two-tiered nursing strategy, allowing for highly qualified nurses to work at the high-tech end of nursing and for trained nurses to do the work more conventionally associated with their profession, is a practical solution.

Sincerely,
ROY LILLEY
(Chairman, Homewood NHS Trust, 1991-94)
57 Yockley Close,
Camberley, Surrey GU15 1QQ.
January 11.

From Dr Stephen J. D. Brecker

Sir, The current crisis in the National Health Service reflects conditions that are only a little worse than those in which the NHS functions normally. Few clinicians in the front line believe that the service can continue in its current state.

A 6 per cent increase in the demands on a service which functions at 95 per cent capacity will overwhelm it yet at times like this the public expects and demands a better service — largely because of the failure of successive governments to demand substantially increased health spending. The turning point has, I believe, arrived, and now the NHS will not be helped by £1 million or even £1 billion one-off winter cash supplements.

A fundamental rethink is required on what we wish the NHS to provide and how it is funded. The service we have is all that we can expect for close to 7 per cent of our gross domestic product; a service which better meets demand requires us to spend more — 9 or 10 per cent would bring us in line with other major EU countries.

If we really want this, we shall have to make sacrifices elsewhere, having first conducted a properly informed public debate (something which has never taken place). We must choose between our health service and other major demands on revenue which might impact on our standing in the world political and defence arena.

As anyone who attends international medical conferences knows, our current wretched condition is being underlined by our inability to deliver first-rate healthcare.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BRECKER
(Consultant cardiologist,
St George's Hospital, Tooting,
82 Regent Court,
1 North Bank, NW8 8UW.
January 11.

Interest rate cuts

From Mr J. R. Anderson

Sir, Economists have noted that interest rates at virtually nil levels have failed to revitalise the Japanese economy. Surprisingly, there has been little recognition that rate reductions could similarly fail here (reports, January 8).

The demographic age profile in the UK means that for a large proportion of the population investment income is a significant factor, particularly in respect of discretionary spending. Reduced interest on savings accounts has an immediate impact and, given an unwillingness to reduce the capital base which underwrites future income, the obvious recourse is to reduce spending. The problem for those dependent on dividend income is compounded by the decision to eliminate or halve the tax credit reclaim.

Interest rate reductions are a crude instrument for economic control and their effects are not nearly as predictable as some might assume.

Yours sincerely,
J. R. ANDERSON,
4 Vardon Drive,
Wimslow, Cheshire SK9 2AQ.

Do term-time holidays matter?

From the Head of The Duchess's County High School

Sir, I enjoyed Libby Purves's gentle mockery of the National Association of Head Teachers. David Blunkett, the Downing Street "spokes-prig" and the Blair children's headmaster, on the matter of the one-day term-time holiday ("A note to the head", January 5; see also letters, January 4 and 7; of the possible threats to the attainment of my admirable students, the occasional family holiday in term time does not seem very significant).

A much greater threat arises from the extraordinary inequality of funding in the nation's schools. No student of mine has a single textbook to take home: in some cases we have half a set of textbooks shared between four classes. It is one book between eight students, and we have one quarter of the average number of computers in English secondary schools.

Not all schools are facing difficulties of this order. For example, the London Oratory School's budget this year is £3.9 million for its 1,350 students (Funding Agency for Schools figures); mine is £2.2 million for my 1,025 students. The simple pro-rata difference is £1.3 million. Allowing for the inner London weighting and the 15 per cent extra which grant-maintained schools receive, there remains a pro-rata difference of nearly £1 million per year.

The Government promised to review the system, but has postponed any action for three years, presumably because redistribution, a word absent from new Labour's lexicon, might alienate newly acquired Labour voters in prosperous areas.

I do not argue that the London Oratory School is over-funded: quite the reverse. I criticise Tony Blair for failing to ensure that the advantages which our taxes provide for his children are enjoyed by children across the country.

Yours faithfully,
G. THOMPSON, Head,
The Duchess's County High School,
Howling Lane, Alwicks,
Northumberland NE66 1DH.
January 7.

Census plan to 'pry' into religion

From Dr David Coleman

Sir, It seems increasingly likely that the 2001 census will require us to state our religious affiliation. This is bad news. Religious faith is a private matter, not to be prised into by compulsory public inquiries.

Most of us, even if religious, do not structure our lives around religion, which is the active pursuit of an increasingly small minority. It follows no important demand from the general public and relates to no general problems.

The main reason for its proposed inclusion is the desire by ethnic minority populations and their pressure groups, particularly Muslims, to be able to number and to label themselves publicly. This may be in their short-term interest, enabling them to argue for more group-related privileges and facilities and exercise power over and above that available to them as citizens.

But it is not in the national interest for the census to encourage people to segregate themselves from the rest of

From the General Secretary of the NAHT

Sir, Libby Purves berates me for criticising parents who totally ignore school policies on families taking holidays during term time.

Head teachers are well aware of the difficulties which some families have finding the time for holidays during the 14 weeks which are available out of term time.

However, the law requires the consent of the head before the child is taken away for up to ten days in any school year. Accordingly, it is untenable to portray heads who attempt to implement school policies as people who are riding rough-shod over parental rights.

It is not the General Secretary of the NAHT who is a "joyless militant" on this issue. The NAHT is simply reflecting the basic fact that thousands of schools have clear policies, endorsed by governing bodies on which parents have a voice, which do not permit family holidays during term time.

These schools understand that absences can damage not only the education of the children on holiday, but also the education of the rest of the pupils in the class.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HART,
General Secretary,
National Association of Head Teachers,
1 Heath Square,
Bolton Road, Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1BL.
January 6.

From Mr John Jones

Sir, Has Tony Blair discovered what Winston Churchill once observed: that "Headmasters have powers at their disposal which Prime Ministers have never yet been invested?"

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JONES,
14 Hellings Gardens,
Buckfast, Devon EX5 3DX.
petros13@aol.com
January 5.

the population and to emphasise their differences from each other. That way lies a new, creeping statistical apartheid which can hardly serve the integration of minorities of immigrant origin or encourage feelings of common citizenship in a secular society. If Muslims and Sikhs want information about their adherents, they can do their own research, as Jews and Roman Catholics have done.

It was bad enough having questions on our ethnic origin in the last (and forthcoming) census. I hope that public opposition to this further divisive proposal will persuade Mr Straw and the Government to think again.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COLEMAN
(Reader in Demography,
University of Oxford),
Department of Applied Social Studies and Social Research,
Barnett House,
Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2ER.
January 8.

Diet and health

From Mr F. Paul Taylor

Sir, Mrs Peggy Edwards should happily eat Delia's pastry and custard (letter, December 30; see also letters, January 8). Before the First World War people lived on fatty meat, real cream, cheese and butter and the staple food of the poor was bread and dripping. Yet death from coronary thrombosis was virtually unknown.

As Dr Alan B. Shrank pointed out in his letter (December 28), the idea that saturated fats might cause arterial disease was put forward by Dr Hugh Sinclair in 1951 and, despite much evidence to the contrary, has persisted ever since. In fact, as the eminent nutritionist Dr Ronald Finn pointed out in your columns (letter, May 24, 1994) "the great pandemic of heart disease commenced in the early part of this century" and, aided by the onset of mass smoking during the First World War, has exactly paralleled the consumption of artificially hydrogenated fats, introduced in 1909, ever since.

Reduction of natural saturated fats in our diet doesn't reduce the chance of heart disease. But I avoid artificially hydrogenated fats like the plague.

Yours faithfully,
F. PAUL TAYLOR,
7 Kingsway,
Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 6RU.
January 7.

Golden years

From Mr Stanley Armstrong

Sir, Mr John Pullan (letter, January 5) need not necessarily resign himself to the onset of old age. On the authority of *The Chambers Dictionary* (1998), in perhaps the only joke in its 1,984 pages, middle-aged is defined as "between youth and old age, variously reckoned to suit the reckoner".

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY ARMSTRONG,
10 Regency Road, Malvern Link,
Worcestershire WR14 1EB.
January 6.

Dearth of officers of humble origins

From Mr John Douce

Sir, Since Major Eric Joyce published his comments on the social "elite" at senior levels of the Army (report, August 4, 1997; letter, August 7, 1997) I have been reading the obituaries published in *The Times*, looking out for senior military officers who achieved success from humble beginnings and/or rose through the ranks. There appear to be very few.

Two I recall were Enoch Powell, a man of truly exceptional intellect, and an admiral who rose through the engineering side of the Royal Navy in the 1960s.

Practically all the distinguished officers who featured were given a good start to their careers by being part of a famous family with good connections and/or educated at an expensive school. Considering their ages and the times in which most of those men made their marks, one should not be surprised that the landed gentry feature prominently.

What surprises me most is that I have not seen as much comment as I would have expected from either serving or recently retired officers pointing out that things have, in fact, changed over recent years.

Are there any examples of generals who started in, say, the Junior Leaders Regiment?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DOUCE,
8 Bedford Close,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1HE.
January 8.

Addressing postcodes

From Mr D. T. Johnson

Sir, Why use postcodes (letters, December 28; January 1 and 6)? One might well ask. I regularly receive mail not only with the wrong postcode, but also addressed to the wrong person.

These letters are correctly addressed but, despite several protests to the Post Office, I continue to receive them. Perhaps I should move to a different road.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JOHNSON,
97 London Road,
Qadby (not Leicester) LE2 5DP.
dij@le.ac.uk
January 7.

From Mr Henry J. Pomeroy

Sir, As postcodes are so important, why are they no longer included in the addresses of those listed in telephone directories?

Yours faithfully,
HENRY J. POMEROY,
Hare & Hounds House,
Stoughton, Somerset BS28 4PT.
henry.pomeroy@btinternet.com

From Mrs Sheila Rowland

Sir, Hard to believe this, but about two years ago I received a letter on which the only words written were "Silver Winds". The Post Office had written, "Try East Horsley". Clever, but rather spooky.

Yours sincerely,
SHEILA ROWLAND,
Silver Winds, Woodland Drive,
East Horsley, Surrey KT24 5AN.
January 8.

From Mr Christopher Y. Nutt

Sir, In 1929, when my late father was working at the Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge, he received a letter from the US in regular time addressed simply, "Mr Nutt, physicist, England".

In modern times I have lived in an area of Pimlico postcoded SW1V. Naturally I, and no doubt many others, found our mail was redirected via Clapham SW4, as the result of the efforts of some redundant clerk in the employ of the Post Office.

So much for technological progress.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER Y. NUTT,
Bancroft Park,
Little Abington, Cambridge CB1 6BQ.
January 6.

Light in the darkness

From Mr David Lewis

Sir, Amid recent discussion about the millennium bug I was not surprised to hear an elderly aunt referring to next year as "the malarium".

Yours faithfully,
D. A. LEWIS,
The Basement Flat,
34 Lime Grove,
Bideford, Devon EX39 4HY.
January 7.

From Mr Peter Hollindale

Sir, It is disappointing to see that the Prince of Wales and many churchmen have apparently reacted dismissively to the proposed millennium candle-lighting ceremony. The idea is a uniquely appropriate blend of superstition and practicality.

A candle lit at 11.58pm next New Year's Eve may be very handy two minutes later, when the lights go out. A prayer would not come amiss, either.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HOLLINDALE,
6 Grange Garth,
Fulford Road, York YO1 4BS.
January 5.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

OBITUARIES

COLONEL ANTHONY SIMONDS

Colonel Anthony Simonds, OBE, M19 officer, died on January 7 aged 89. He was born on November 21, 1909.

Anthony Simonds, who served under Orde Wingate in Palestine and Ethiopia, later did his best to repair one of the stupider blunders of the Second World War and organised the rescue of hundreds of prisoners of war in Italy. He was mentioned seven times in dispatches and Wingate put him up for a DSO for what he did in Ethiopia. But Wingate had enemies in GHQ, Cairo, and Simonds was not the only member of his team not to get the recognition he deserved.

By the summer of 1943, when Mussolini was deposed, Simonds was a lieutenant-colonel in command of the Balkans and Middle East section of M19, the secret escape and evasion service. Behind barbed wire in various Italian camps were almost 80,000 Allied prisoners, the majority British and Commonwealth soldiers captured by Axis forces in North Africa. When Marshal Badoglio formally surrendered on September 8, five days after the British had landed in the toe of Italy, their guards simply walked away.

This should have been the cue for hundreds of escape parties to make their way towards the Allied lines. Instead, in most of the camps the senior British officers ordered the POWs to stay put and await rescue. They did this because they had been told to do so by M19's headquarters in London in coded messages picked up on the camps' clandestine radios. The historian and former intelligence officer M. R. D. Foot has suggested that M19 was doing the bidding of the tiny-minded Montgomery, who did not want his battlefield cluttered up with ragged bands of escapees.

A few thousand insubordinate souls guessed that the Germans were likely to get to them much faster than the Allies and bolted. Some dithered and still got away. Among the luckier ones was a Captain Balfour of the Scots Guards, an officer privy to the secret M19 order, who at the last moment hid on a raft while the Wehrmacht emptied the rest of his camp into trains for Germany.

Balfour got to the little Adriatic port of Terno, the Eighth Army's most forward position, where Simonds had set up the vanguard of his prisoner rescue operation. For the first time Simonds heard about the astonishing M19 order from London and realised he would have to act quickly before the Germans rounded all the prisoners up. Under his command, he had what must have been one of the most heterogeneous units the Allies ever put into the field. There were three Italian Navy motor launches whose crews had only recently been exchanging shots with the Royal Navy, 13 Italian fishing boats with mixed RN and Italian crews, two squadrons of SAS, one of them Free French, a company of British paratroopers and a contingent of first generation Italian-Americans on loan from the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA.

His officers included an amateur jockey who had won the Grand National, a London stockbroker, a newspaper illustrator, a Twining tea faster, a French Communist who had fought Franco, the former Polish Ambassador to Rome, the Prince of Calabria, the son of the Governor-General of the Sudan, a couple of Estonians and a jazz-loving Harvard professor. Simonds's tactics were simple. Teams of parachutists were dropped near the known sites of POW camps. They shepherded escapees to the coast. In case they missed the rendezvous or were chased away by German patrols, the SAS parties taught the escapees recognition signals to make out to sea. Night after night Simonds would crawl along the coast in one of his vessels, searching for waifs and strays. Sometimes boats were lured into traps and blown to pieces. One night Simonds spotted some lights that were too faint and irregular to make out whether they were the right signal. His vessel went as close inshore as it dared and lowered Simonds and three others in a small boat. On the beach were a bunch of men who shouted they were British. "Identify yourselves by whistling *The British Grenadiers*," demanded Simonds. A faint but recognisable rendering came back. It turned out to be an exhausted party of 15 escapees who for the second successive night were making their feeble signals with a candle.

Sometimes Simonds ventured further inland. Once he helped capture a German officer who had been persuaded by one of his Italian-Americans that they were black marketeers with whisky. "Not a correct M19 operation," Simonds noted in his unpub-

lished memoirs, "but great fun". Anthony Charles Simonds, the son of an officer killed on the Somme, came from an old and wealthy Berkshire family with interests in banking and brewing. He was educated at Wellington College and in 1931 was commissioned into the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He was much admired for his boxing skills and reached the army championships four times at featherweight.

His other talents were perhaps more in keeping with his passion for chess, for he soon showed an aptitude for intelligence work. During the Arab uprising in Palestine in the late 1930s he worked at GHQ Jerusalem and sometimes fed tip-offs to Wingate's Special Night Squads which resulted in deadly ambushes. Complaints from senior officers' wives that young Captain Simonds kept a permanent female companion in his bungalow were dismissed by his immediate superiors on the ground that this "moral turpitude" might be essential to his duties. In November 1940 he was at Wavell's headquarters in Cairo when Wingate asked him if he would parachute into Italian-occupied Ethiopia, where the British were giving Haile Selassie's guerrillas the little military assistance they could then spare. Simonds, who never made any secret of his fear of parachuting, said he would rather walk, and trekked most of the way from the Sudanese border to the source of the Blue Nile. For the next six months, with shoulder length hair and a beard down to his chest, Simonds led a barefoot column of Ethiopians. As part of Wingate's Gideon Force he helped to the down thousands of Italian troops while conventional British forces attacked from Sudan and Kenya. Woefully equipped by indifferent staff offices in Khartoum, he improvised brilliantly. He convinced the enemy that cigarette tins were landmines, organised the repair of an old muzzle-loading cannon to fire round shot, and turned back an Italian surprise attack by using a flare pistol to transform some dry scrub into a wall of fire. When, towards the end of the campaign, he was ordered, protesting, back to Cairo, the paymaster's department insisted that he was not entitled to field service allowance, since he had not been in the field at all but merely "behind enemy lines".



Simonds in Ethiopia in 1941 as part of Wingate's Gideon Force

From September 1941 until the end of the war he was in charge of all escape and rescue operations in the Balkans. Although Turkey was officially neutral he ran a fleet of turned caiques into the Aegean islands from a port near Izmir. Shortly before the German surrender he was almost killed while flying to Turkey from Cyprus when a German fighter from occupied Rhodes attacked the unarmed RAF transport he was in. To shake off the fighter the pilot, who like all the aircrew had an oxygen mask, took his unpressurised plane as high as he could. Simonds passed out.

In 1952 he left the Army and became a flower-grower in Cyprus where, in 1943, he had married his first wife, Eirwen Llewellyn Jones, with whom he had two daughters before they were divorced in 1969. Simonds remained on the island throughout the 1955-59 Eoka rebellion. But when the Turks invaded Cyprus in 1974 his home in Kyrenia was destroyed. Evacuated by the Royal Navy, he later returned to the island and, with his second wife, Barbara Ayre, set up home in the village of Aylesbury. In aid of Anglican church funds he ran a secondhand bookshop in the grounds of St Paul's in Nicosia and was often to be seen sitting outside it wearing a Panama hat and a Special Forces Club tie. In 1997, suffering from the onset of Alzheimer's disease, he moved back to Britain.

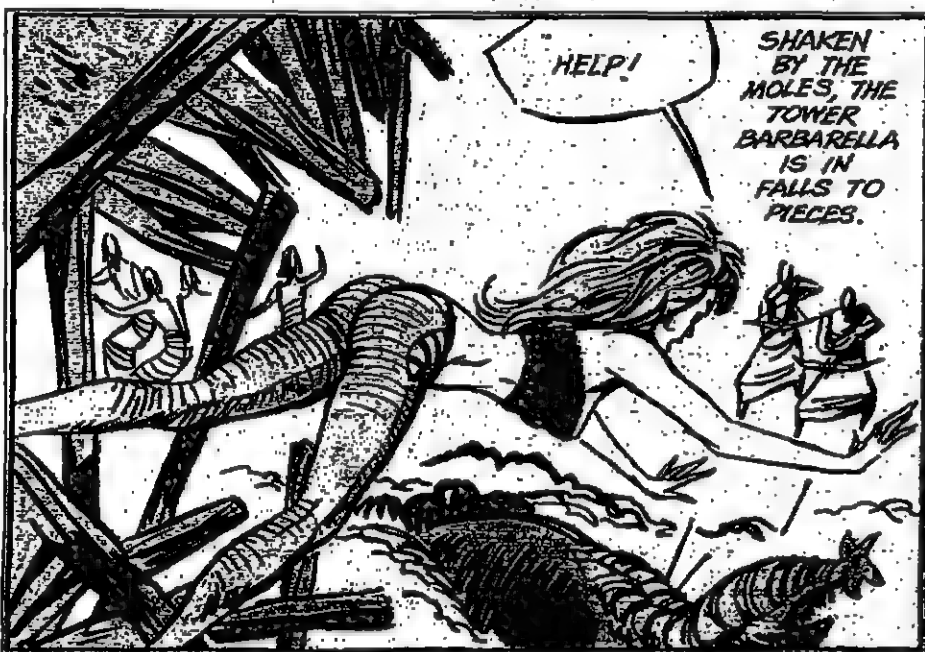
He is survived by his second wife Barbara and the two daughters from his previous marriage.

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He is survived by his second wife Barbara and the two daughters from his previous marriage.



JEAN-CLAUDE FOREST

Jean-Claude Forest, French cartoonist, died on December 30 aged 68. He was born on September 30, 1930.

THOUGH he created many cartoon characters, Jean-Claude Forest is best known for *Barbarella*, his sex-mad Shogun spacegirl. In Forest's farrago of amiable nonsense, the semblance of scientific exactitude which had been the feature of previous space strips went out of the window. Not for *Barbarella* the observation of those conventional laws which had characterised America's Buck Rogers and Britain's Dan Dare — a knowledge of different gravity fields, a wary care for hostile atmospheres and a need to

cope with strange space languages. Capering around the universe without space helmet or suit, chattering away to all and sundry in galactic Esperanto and wearing little more than the skin she was born in, she seemed quite immune to such apprehensions. Like one of the apsarases of Hindu mythology, those divine nymphs who roam the floors of heaven, coupling at will with the embodied souls of the righteous, *Barbarella*, too, seemed to regard it as her mission to bestow herself generously upon any man (or, for that matter, robot) in whom she found signs of virtue.

True, there was more than a hint of S&M in Forest's creation (which was magnified in Roger Vadim's film version). In one scene a revolting machine threatens the heroine with death by orgasm. And in another, hostile, steel-jawed dolls sink their teeth into her fair flesh, causing the blood to flow over her scanty lingerie. But unlike that other accident-prone strip cartoon character Modesty Blaise, *Barbarella* never had to exert any ingenuity to get out of a scrape. A hop, a skip, a sigh or a flash of her irresistible assets to dazzle and confuse the enemy, and she was out of one tight corner — generally soon to find herself in another.

Jean-Claude Forest had his artistic training at the Ecole des Arts et des Métiers, Paris. While still a student, he worked on his first cartoon strip, a visual adaptation of R. L. Stevenson's *Ways of the Forest* novel, *The Black Arrow*. In his early twenties he worked on *Vaillant*, a weekly comic for boys, producing several fantasy strips and so making himself a reputation. By 1959, he was drawing a comic strip for *France-Sol*. But it was *Barbarella*, first created in 1962 for the magazine *V*, that made his reputation. The strip, with its soft porn heroine — whose motto in life seemed to be "If it moves, proposition it" — became hugely popular among adolescents and young men, for who liked her propensity for shedding what little clothing she wore whenever she exerted herself. In 1964 a series of the strips was published as a book and a few years later there was an English language version.

But although, in general, France prided itself on having shown the Anglo-Saxon world how to get sex into space with style, the authorities had a sudden *reflexion bourgeoise* about their country being once again stylised the publishing centre *pornographique*. There was a futile attempt to ban the book, but the genie was too far out of the bottle.

The enfant terrible of "starkers" cinema, Roger Vadim, who had made his reputation by putting on the screen the undraped splendours of his wife Brigitte Bardot in his first film, *Et... Dieu créa la Femme* (1966), now had *Barbarella* in his sights. Already divorced from Bardot (and, after her, Annette Stroyberg), he was now on his third wife, Jane Fonda, who had just as Bardot would have been — *Et... Dieu créa la Femme* of the benches) was a perfect vehicle for the Forest idea.

With her naturally agreeable contours little disguised by clothing, the third Mme Vadim was soon capering around the set of *Barbarella*, molested (and as frequently doing the molesting herself) by a host of monsters, misfits, machines and the occasional angel. The results of these absurd antics, lovingly photographed by Claude Renoir, went on general release in 1968.

Fonda, a product of the Actors Studio in New York, was really far too intelligent for the Vadim sex goddess treatment, and she later moved on to better things (and two other marriages). But for the moment her unimpeachable physical credentials carried her through. The result, a sex fantasy firmly rooted in its era, is nevertheless still watchable. Its success owed a good deal to Forest himself, who supervised the set design for Vadim, and made some of his more outlandish cartoon notions work on screen.

Having soared to success on a wave of girly sex, Forest stuck with the genre. He became editor of a new adult magazine *Chouchou*, for which he created the strip *Baby Cygnide*, and created another nubile female protagonist for French television. But he was never again to achieve the éclat of *Barbarella*.

He is survived by his wife Petra, and by a son.

PROFESSOR TAD RYBCZYNSKI

Professor Tadeusz Rybczynski, economist, died on December 13 aged 75. He was born on May 21, 1923.

TAD RYBCZYNSKI made lasting contributions both to economic theory and to an understanding of financial institutions and markets, and was also a selflessly active member of an astonishing number of professional bodies, at least one of which he founded. His achievements are yet another example of the contribution made by immigrants to Britain's professional life.

Tadeusz Mieczyslaw Rybczynski was born in Lvov in the Ukraine. He came to Britain in 1942 via the Soviet Union and the Middle East, and enlisted in the RAF, becoming a bomber pilot. In 1949 he joined Lloyds Bank, while also studying at the London School of Economics as an external student, obtaining first a BCom and then, in 1952, an MSc degree. Out of the latter came a seminal article on the theory of international trade, known ever since as the Rybczynski theorem, which analysed the effects of a shift in the distribution of economic resources.

In 1954 he joined Lazard Brothers, then one of the few merchant banks to employ economists, and before long he was head of its economic research department. In 1969 he was made a director of Lazard Securities, the fund management arm of the bank. After retiring from this in 1986 he retained a role as economic adviser to Lazard Brothers for a further two years.

It is almost impossible to think of a professional body in the field of applied economics in Britain in which Rybczynski did not play an influential role, even while he was still with Lazard. He was chairman of the Society of Business Economists between 1963 and 1975, and in 1968 was elected to the council of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and to that of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, for both of which his investment judgment proved particularly fruitful.

He served on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission between 1978 and 1981. In the early 1970s he founded the City

Monetary Group, which still meets regularly to discuss monetary and other economic questions. At various times he also served on the council or governing body of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the Royal Economic Society, the Trade Policy Research Centre and the Economic Research Council. His international outlook was evidenced in his membership of the committee of the Foreign Affairs Club and of the science committee of the Centre for Monetary and Banking Studies at the University of Geneva. In 1980 he received the Abramson Award of the National Association of Business Economists in the United States, and in 1983 he was the recipient of the Harris Award from the University of Kiel.



His university activities were notable. He served on the court of Brunel University between 1976 and 1979 and was a visiting professor at the University of Surrey between 1968 and 1974. He then became a visiting professor at the City University, where he was also awarded an honorary DSc in 1990. His writings were numerous, spanning monetary and banking problems, international finance and taxation.

His unbounded energy was not, as is often the case, accompanied by any desire to dominate or by any hint of vanity. He was a modest and gentle persuader whose optimism about dogmas never degenerated into mere cynicism. He was always ready to encourage the young and inspired affection as well as respect.

Tad Rybczynski leaves his widow Helena, whom he married in 1951, and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

DEPART any day, weekend, office & holiday, 12 or 14 days, 21 or 28 days, 35 or 42 days, 49 or 56 days, 63 or 70 days, 77 or 84 days, 91 or 98 days, 105 or 112 days, 119 or 126 days, 133 or 140 days, 147 or 154 days, 161 or 168 days, 175 or 182 days, 189 or 196 days, 203 or 210 days, 217 or 224 days, 231 or 238 days, 245 or 252 days, 259 or 266 days, 273 or 280 days, 287 or 294 days, 301 or 308 days, 315 or 322 days, 329 or 336 days, 343 or 350 days, 357 or 364 days, 371 or 378 days, 385 or 392 days, 399 or 406 days, 413 or 420 days, 427 or 434 days, 441 or 448 days, 455 or 462 days, 469 or 476 days, 483 or 490 days, 497 or 504 days, 511 or 518 days, 525 or 532 days, 539 or 546 days, 553 or 560 days, 567 or 574 days, 581 or 588 days, 595 or 602 days, 609 or 616 days, 623 or 630 days, 637 or 644 days, 651 or 658 days, 665 or 672 days, 679 or 686 days, 693 or 700 days, 707 or 714 days, 721 or 728 days, 735 or 742 days, 749 or 756 days, 763 or 770 days, 777 or 784 days, 791 or 798 days, 805 or 812 days, 819 or 826 days, 833 or 840 days, 847 or 854 days, 861 or 868 days, 875 or 882 days, 889 or 896 days, 903 or 910 days, 917 or 924 days, 931 or 938 days, 939 or 946 days, 953 or 960 days, 967 or 974 days, 981 or 988 days, 995 or 1002 days, 1009 or 1016 days, 1023 or 1030 days, 1037 or 1044 days, 1051 or 1058 days, 1065 or 1072 days, 1079 or 1086 days, 1093 or 1100 days, 1107 or 1114 days, 1121 or 1128 days, 1135 or 1142 days, 1149 or 1156 days, 1163 or 1170 days, 1177 or 1184 days, 1191 or 1198 days, 1205 or 1212 days, 1219 or 1226 days, 1233 or 1240 days, 1247 or 1254 days, 1261 or 1268 days, 1275 or 1282 days, 1289 or 1296 days, 1303 or 1310 days, 1317 or 1324 days, 1331 or 1338 days, 1345 or 1352 days, 1359 or 1366 days, 1373 or 1380 days, 1387 or 1394 days, 1401 or 1408 days, 1415 or 1422 days, 1429 or 1436 days, 1443 or 1450 days, 1457 or 1464 days, 1471 or 1478 days, 1485 or 1492 days, 1499 or 1506 days, 1513 or 1520 days, 1527 or 1534 days, 1541 or 1548 days, 1555 or 1562 days, 1569 or 1576 days, 1583 or 1590 days, 1597 or 1604 days, 1611 or 1618 days, 1625 or 1632 days, 1629 or 1636 days, 1643 or 1650 days, 1657 or 1664 days, 1671 or 1678 days, 1685 or 1692 days, 1699 or 1706 days, 1713 or 1720 days, 1727 or 1734 days, 1741 or 1748 days, 1755 or 1762 days, 1769 or 1776 days, 1783 or 1790 days, 1797 or 1804 days, 1811 or 1818 days, 1825 or 1832 days, 1829 or 1836 days, 1843 or 1850 days, 1857 or 1864 days, 1871 or 1878 days, 1885 or 1892 days, 1899 or 1906 days, 1913 or 1920 days, 1927 or 1934 days, 1941 or 1948 days, 1955 or 1962 days, 1969 or 1976 days, 1983 or 1990 days, 1997 or 2004 days, 2009 or 2016 days, 2023 or 2030 days, 2037 or 2044 days, 2051 or 2058 days, 2065 or 2072 days, 2079 or 2086 days, 2093 or 2100 days, 2107 or 2114 days, 2121 or 2128 days, 2135 or 2142 days, 2149 or 2156 days, 2163 or 2170 days, 2177 or 2184 days, 2191 or 2198 days, 2205 or 2212 days, 2219 or 2226 days, 2233 or 2240 days, 2247 or 2254 days, 2261 or 2268 days, 2275 or 2282 days, 2289 or 2296 days, 2303 or 2310 days, 2317 or 2324 days, 2331 or 2338 days, 2345 or 2352 days, 2359 or 2366 days, 2373 or 2380 days, 2387 or 2394 days, 2401 or 2408 days, 2415 or 2422 days, 2429 or 2436 days, 2443 or 2450 days, 2457 or 2464 days, 2471 or 2478 days, 2485 or 2492 days, 2499 or 2506 days, 2513 or 2520 days, 2527 or 2534 days, 2541 or 2548 days, 2555 or 2562 days, 2569 or 2576 days, 2583 or 2590 days, 2597 or 2604 days, 2611 or 2618 days, 2625 or 2632 days, 2629 or 2636 days, 2643 or 2650 days, 2657 or 2664 days, 2671 or 2678 days, 2685 or 2692 days, 2699 or 2706 days, 2713 or 2720 days, 2727 or 2734 days, 2741 or 2748 days, 2755 or 2762 days, 2769 or 2776 days, 2783 or 2790 days, 2797 or 2804 days, 2811 or 2818 days, 2825 or 2832 days, 2829 or 2836 days, 2843 or 2850 days, 2857 or 2864 days, 2871 or 2878 days, 2885 or 2892 days, 2899 or 2906 days, 2913 or 2920 days, 2927 or 2934 days, 2941 or 2948 days, 2955 or 2962 days, 2969 or 2976 days, 2983 or 2990 days, 2997 or 3004 days, 3009 or 3016 days, 3023 or 3030 days, 3037 or 3044 days, 3051 or 3058 days, 3065 or 3072 days, 3079 or 3086 days, 3093 or 3100 days, 3107 or 3114 days, 3121 or 3128 days, 3135 or 3142 days, 3149 or 3156 days, 3163 or 3170 days, 3177 or 3184 days, 3191 or 3198 days, 3205 or 3212 days, 3219 or 3226 days, 3233 or 3240 days, 3247 or 3254 days, 3261 or 3268 days, 3275 or 3282 days, 3289 or 3296 days, 3303 or 3310 days, 3317 or 3324 days, 3331 or 3338 days, 3345 or 3352 days, 3359 or 3366 days, 3373 or 3380 days, 3387 or 3394 days, 3401 or 3408 days, 3415 or 3422 days, 3429 or 3436 days, 3443 or 3450 days, 3457 or 3464 days, 3471 or 3478 days, 3485 or 3492 days, 3499 or 3506 days, 3513 or 3520 days, 3527 or 3534 days, 3541 or 3548 days, 3555 or 3562 days, 3569 or 3576 days, 3583 or 3590 days, 3597 or 3604 days, 3611 or 3618 days, 3625 or 3632 days, 3629 or 3636 days, 3643 or 3650 days, 3657 or 3664 days, 3671 or 3678 days, 3685 or 3692 days, 3699 or 3706 days, 3713 or 3720 days, 3727 or 3734 days, 3741 or 3748 days, 3755 or 3762 days, 3769 or 3776 days, 3783 or 3790 days, 3797 or 3804 days, 3811 or 3818 days, 3825 or 3832 days, 3829 or 3836 days, 3843 or 3850 days, 3857 or 3864 days, 3871 or 3878 days, 3885 or 3892 days, 3899 or 3906 days, 3913 or 3920 days, 3927 or 3934 days, 3941 or 3948 days, 3955 or 3962 days, 3969 or 3976 days, 3983 or 3990 days, 3997 or 4004 days, 4009 or 4016 days, 4023 or 4030 days, 4037 or 4044 days, 4051 or 4058 days, 4065 or 4072 days, 4079 or 4086 days, 4093 or 4100 days, 4107 or 4114 days, 4121 or 4128 days, 4135 or 4142 days, 4149 or 4156 days, 4163 or 4170 days, 4177 or 4184 days, 4191 or 4198 days, 4205 or 4212 days, 4219 or 4226 days, 4233 or 4240 days, 4247 or 4254 days, 4261 or 4268 days, 4275 or 4282 days, 4289 or 4296 days, 4303 or 4310 days, 4317 or 4324 days, 4331 or 4338 days, 4345 or 4352 days, 4359 or 4366 days, 4373 or 4380 days, 4387 or 4394 days, 4401 or 4408 days, 4415 or 4422 days, 4429 or 4436 days, 4443 or 4450 days, 4457 or 4464 days, 4471 or 4478 days, 4485 or 4492 days, 4499 or 4506 days, 4513 or 4520 days, 4527 or 4534 days, 4541 or 4548 days, 4555 or 4562 days, 4569 or 4576 days, 4583 or 4590 days, 4597 or 4604 days, 4611 or 4618 days, 4625 or 4632 days, 4629 or 4636 days, 4643 or 4650 days, 4657 or 4664 days, 4671 or 4678 days, 4685 or 4692 days, 4699 or 4706 days, 4713 or 4720 days, 4727 or 4734 days, 4741 or 4748 days, 4755 or 4762 days, 4769 or 4776 days, 4783 or 4790 days, 4797 or 4804 days, 4811 or 4818 days, 4825 or 4832 days, 4829 or 4836 days, 4843 or 4850 days, 4857 or 4864 days, 4871 or 4878 days, 4885 or 4892 days, 4899 or 4906 days, 4913 or 4920 days, 4927 or 4934 days, 4941 or 4948 days, 4955 or 4962 days, 4969 or 4976 days, 4983 or 4990 days, 4997 or 5004 days, 5009 or 5016 days, 5023 or 5030 days, 5037 or 5044 days, 5051 or 5058 days, 5065 or 5072 days, 5079 or 5086 days, 5093 or 5100 days, 5107 or 5114 days, 5121 or 5128 days, 5135 or 5142 days, 5149 or 5156 days, 5163 or 5170 days, 5177 or 5184 days, 5191 or 5198 days, 5205 or 5212 days, 5219 or 5226 days, 5233 or 5240 days, 5247 or 5254 days, 5261 or 5268 days, 5275 or 5282 days, 5289 or 5296 days, 5303 or 5310 days, 5317 or 5324 days, 5331 or 5338 days, 5345 or 5352 days, 5359 or 5366 days, 5373 or 5380 days, 5387 or 5394 days, 5401 or 5408 days, 5415 or 5422 days, 5429 or 5436 days, 5443 or 5450 days, 5457 or 5464 days, 5471 or 5478 days, 5485 or 5492 days, 5499 or 5506 days, 5513 or 5520 days, 5527 or 5534 days, 5541 or 5548 days, 5555 or 5562 days, 5569 or 5576 days, 5583 or 5590 days, 5597 or 5604 days, 5611 or 5618 days, 5625 or 5632 days, 5629 or 5636 days, 5643 or 5650 days, 5657 or 5664 days, 5671 or 5678 days, 5685 or 5692 days, 5699 or 5706 days, 5713 or 5720 days, 5727 or 5734 days, 5741 or 5748 days, 5755 or 5762 days, 5769 or 5776 days, 5783 or 5790 days, 5797 or 5804 days, 5811 or 5818 days, 5825 or 5832 days, 5829 or 5836 days, 5843 or 5850 days, 5857 or 5864 days, 5871 or 5878 days, 5885 or 5892 days, 5899 or 5906 days, 5913 or 5920 days, 5927 or 5934 days, 5941 or 5948 days, 5955 or 5962 days, 5969 or 5976 days, 5983 or 5990 days, 5997 or 6004 days, 6009 or 6016 days, 6023 or 6030 days, 6037 or 6044 days, 6051 or 6058 days, 6065 or 6072 days, 6079 or 6086 days, 6093 or 6100 days, 6107 or 6114 days, 6121 or 6128 days, 6135 or 6142 days, 6149 or 6156 days, 6163 or 6170 days, 6177 or 6184 days, 6191 or 6198 days, 6205 or 6212 days, 6219 or 6226 days, 6233 or 6240 days, 6247 or 6254 days, 6261 or 6268 days, 6275 or 6282 days, 6289 or 6296 days, 6303 or 6310 days, 6317 or 6324 days, 6331 or 6338 days, 6345 or 6352 days, 6359 or 6366 days, 6373 or 6380 days, 6387 or 6394 days, 6401 or 6408 days, 6415 or 6422 days, 6429 or 6436 days, 6443 or 6450 days, 6457 or 6464 days, 6471 or 6478 days, 6485 or 6492 days, 6499 or 6506 days, 6513 or 6520 days, 6527 or 6534 days, 6541 or 6548 days, 6555 or 6562 days, 6569 or 6576 days, 6583 or 6590 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Court of Appeal

Law Report January 12 1999

Court of Appeal

Court must end tenancy

Third party cannot revive claim

Manchester City Council v Cochran and Another
Before Lord Justice Auld, Lord Justice Judge and Sir John Knox
(Judgment December 21)

An introductory tenancy granted by a local authority under Part V of the Housing Act 1996 for one year without security of tenure entitled the council to apply for a possession order if the tenants or their visitors caused a nuisance.

The county court was obliged to make an order for possession so long as the council complied with the statutory procedure in sections 127 and 128 of the Act.

The only challenge open to the tenant if an internal review upheld the council's decision, was an application to the High Court for judicial review of the decision, for which purpose the county court had power to grant an adjournment of the possession proceedings, but not a stay.

In contrast to Part VII of the Act which empowered the county court to exercise a judicial review jurisdiction in relation to homelessness cases, the county court had no similar jurisdiction to hear appeals by introductory tenants on points of law.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing the appeal of Manchester City Council against the dismissal by Judge Horowitz in Manchester County Court of the council's appeal against the decision of District Judge Griffiths that the county court had jurisdiction to entertain appeals by the introductory tenants.

Mr Joseph Cochran and Mrs Anne Cochran, in the council's possession proceedings.

Section 127 of the 1996 Act provides:

"(1) The landlord may only bring

an introductory tenancy to an end by obtaining an order of the court for the possession of the dwelling-house.

"(2) The court shall make such an order unless the provisions of section 128 apply.

Section 128 provides:

"(1) The court shall not entertain proceedings for the possession of a dwelling-house let under an introductory tenancy unless the landlord has served on the tenant a notice of proceedings complying with this section."

Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr Jonathan Manning for the council. Mr Peter Buckley for the tenants.

SIR JOHN KNOX said that the appeal raised the question of the extent of the county court's jurisdiction in dealing with possession actions in relation to introductory tenants under Part V of the 1996 Act.

That part contained novel provisions for housing authorities to elect to operate an introductory tenancy scheme whereby new tenants would have a probationary one-year period before becoming secure tenants. Manchester City Council made such an election.

On April 15, 1997 the council granted Mr and Mrs Cochran a joint weekly tenancy of a property in Burnage, Manchester. The tenancy was expressed to be an introductory tenancy until April 14, 1998 when Mr and Mrs Cochran were to become secure tenants.

Clause 19 of the tenancy agreement stated, inter alia:

"The council can take possession of your home... Because of your own action or the action of someone living with you or visiting you, or they, must have broken a rule in this tenancy agreement or given false information in your housing application."

In his Lordship's view the appeal should be allowed for three reasons.

First, the private law right of the tenants under an introductory tenancy was no more than a right to possession until an order for possession was made by the court, and such order had to be made once the requirements of section 128 regarding the notice of proceedings had been complied with.

Parliament, by enacting section 127(2) in mandatory terms clearly imposed a statutory limitation on the right of an introductory tenant to retain possession.

Indeed there was a remarkable restriction of the court's powers in that, on the one hand, under section 128(1) the court was prohibited from even entertaining possession proceedings unless the various requirements of section 128 were satisfied, while on the other hand, if the requirements of section 128 were satisfied, the court was positively required to make a possession order under section 127(2).

There was no escape from that analysis. The court had no discretion in the matter at all.

The council's duty to comply with section 129(2) in conducting a review was subject to judicial review.

The county court had to have at least jurisdiction to grant an adjournment if satisfied that there was a real chance of leave to apply for judicial review being granted.

That was the view of Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, in *Avon County Council v Bussey* (1988) QB 656.

It would be a clear contravention of the mandatory terms of section 127(2) for the county court to entertain a defence based on a denial of allegations of breaches of a tenancy agreement relied on in the notice under section 128.

Similarly it would not be proper for a county court to grant a stay of possession proceedings on the application of a tenant alleging failure by the landlord to observe the rules of natural justice.

The general prohibition in section 38(3) of the County Court Act 1984 operated as a bar on any county court reviewing the failure to exercise public duty unless there was parliamentary authority for it to do so.

That conclusion was supported by the second reason, which was the contrast between section 204(1) of the 1996 Act conferring jurisdiction upon the county court to decide any point of law in relation to housing authority reviews under section 202(1) regarding homelessness cases on the one hand, and section 128(1) read with section 127(2) which conferred a very much narrower jurisdiction relating to review of decisions to take proceedings to evict introductory tenants on the other hand.

The third reason was procedural. If the county court had jurisdiction to entertain a defence based on the invalidity of the housing authority's review, the result would probably be that the tenant would become a secure tenant. Clearly that was not a desirable result, nor one which Parliament intended.

No such result would follow if the county court only granted an adjournment of the possession proceedings to enable judicial review proceedings to be taken by the tenant.

His Lordship considered it regrettable that Parliament should have given only such minimal powers to the county court by section 127(2) of the Act. That said, it was Part VII which conferred upon the county court powers wide enough to include public law defences in connection with proceedings under the Housing Acts. As the Act stood, since the validity of the notice under section 128 was not challenged, the tenants' defence should be struck out.

Lord Justice Judge delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Auld agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Susan Orrell, Manchester; Clifford Chapman & Co, Manchester.

Compagnia Europea de Transportes Aereos SA v British Aerospace plc and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Tuckey
(Judgment December 21)

The court would not make an order that would have the effect of allowing a third party to intervene in a dead action so as to make himself a party in order to rescind a dead claim and avoid a limitation defence.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff company, Compagnia Europea de Transportes Aereos SA (Eurolair), from the refusal by Mr Justice Longmore to extend time to allow its writ claiming damages for, inter alia, alleged breach of contract against the defendants, British Aerospace plc and CIBC Finance plc.

Eurolair claimed that the defendants had agreed to sell it three aircraft manufactured by British Aerospace.

The proceedings were started in 1993 just after Eurolair went into liquidation. From 1994 the parties were locked in battle over security for costs.

An order made in January 1996 for security against Eurolair was not complied with. In April Dr Lopes took an assignment of all Eurolair's claims against the defendants and Eurolair applied to amend the writ to add Dr Lopes as a plaintiff.

However, in May 1996 an unless order was made against them that they provide security within 14 days and their application to allow Dr Lopes to join the action to pursue Eurolair's contractual claims was refused.

Eurolair's appeal against those orders was dismissed and they were given until November 4, 1997 to provide the security ordered.

Within the same time Eurolair had to amend the writ to add Dr Lopes as plaintiff. See Order 20, rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Neither of those things happened. British Aerospace therefore applied for the action to be dismissed for failure to comply with the unless order.

That application prompted Dr Lopes to apply for an order for leave to extend time for the amendment to the writ, alternatively for an order substituting himself as plaintiff and giving him leave to continue the action under Order 15, rule 2.

It was those applications that had come before Mr Justice Longmore who held that it was too late for Dr Lopes to be added as plaintiff since the action stood dismissed on November 4 because of Eurolair's non-compliance with the unless order. Unless it could be revived there was no action to which Dr Lopes could be joined.

The judge recognised that the court did have jurisdiction to revive the action but said that it would be unthinkable to exercise it in the present case unless Eurolair were now to provide the security which had been ordered and which they were obviously not going to do.

When Eurolair failed to provide security on November 4 the action stood dismissed. They had the right to try to revive it by seeking an extension of time to provide security but had chosen not to do so.

So the action was to remain dismissed with no prospect of it being revived. Dr Lopes' position, therefore, at this time when the judge heard his application was that he was asking for an extension of time or an order for substitution to join himself into an action which stood dismissed and had no prospect of being revived.

Mr Justice Longmore held that Dr Lopes "was in insuperable difficulties if he was unable to procure [Eurolair] to provide at this late hour security for costs. He had not been able to do so and it was therefore unthinkable that the court would exercise its jurisdiction to regulate the consequences of dismissal."

The judge was correct. In that passage he recognised that he had a residual discretion to revive the action if security was provided, but as it was not going to be he would not allow Dr Lopes to join the action. Whether strictly that was a matter of jurisdiction or discretion did not matter.

The judge obviously made the right decision. Otherwise the effect of allowing Dr Lopes to join the action would enable him to get round the unless order altogether to pursue a claim in the right of the defuncting party.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Judge agreed.

Solicitors: Howard Kennedy, Linklaters.

When time runs

Roberts v Winbow

Time started to run for limitation purposes from the date when the plaintiff knew that a lesser part of her injuries was attributable to the defendant and not when she later discovered that the greater part was also attributable.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Roch and Mrs Justice Hale) so held on December 4 on an appeal by the defendant, Dr Robert Winbow, against the decision of Judge Brandt on February 21, 1998 at Colchester County Court that the claim of the plaintiff, Linda Anne Roberts, for medical negligence had commenced outside the limitation period. The court exercised its discretion to disapply section 11(4) of the Limitation Act 1980 and allowed the action to proceed to trial.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the case raised a new question in a medical negligence case. If a plaintiff suffered injuries some of which she knew to be attributable to the act or omission of the defendant which was alleged to constitute negligence, but the main part of which was not to the plaintiff's knowledge, attributable in whole or in part to the act or omission of the defendant which was alleged to constitute negligence, did the three-year period commence when the plaintiff had knowledge that the lesser part of the injury was attributable, or did the period start only when the plaintiff had knowledge that the greater part of the injury was attributable?

His Lordship accepted that the limitation period started to run from the earlier of those two dates.

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LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the case raised a new question in a medical negligence case. If a plaintiff suffered injuries some of which she knew to be attributable to the act or omission of the defendant which was alleged to constitute negligence, but the main part of which was not to the plaintiff's knowledge, attributable in whole or in part to the act or omission of the defendant which was alleged to constitute negligence, did the three-year period commence when the plaintiff had knowledge that the lesser part of the injury was attributable, or did the period start only when the plaintiff had knowledge that the greater part of the injury was attributable?

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No pre-action discovery against insurers

Burns v Shuttlehurst Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Mummery
(Judgment December 21)

A claim for an indemnity under a contract of insurance, of which the plaintiff was a party, was not a claim for pre-action discovery against the insurers under section 33(2) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing an appeal by General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc from the order of Mr Justice Steel on April 24, 1998, in which he granted pre-action discovery against the insurers under section 33(2) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

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More career women are leaving employment to set up on their own, says Jon Ashworth

Leap in dark promises bright future

Every year in Britain, more than 150,000 women take a deep breath and leap into the uncharted waters of running their own business. Some sail along with ease while others struggle just to keep up with the current. But daunting as it is, few will regret taking the plunge.

More and more career women are trading the inflexibility of the office for the challenge and freedom of running their own show. It often holds a particular appeal for women at a particular stage of their career, typically in their mid-to-late thirties and early forties, when they feel they have gone as far as they can within the corporate structure. Either they have come up against the glass ceiling, or have grown frustrated juggling work and family commitments.

Many aspire to the success of Anita Roddick, who started Body Shop with her husband, Gordon, with a single shop in Brighton in 1976. When it came to the stock market eight years later, the company was worth £8 million, making Roddick an "instant" £1.5 million. Body Shop is no longer the novelty it once was, but remains one of Britain's most famous exports, with 1,600 stores in 47 countries.

Ms Roddick was no different to any other small entrepreneur when she called on her bank manager, seeking to borrow £4,000. She recalls: "I went to the bank and did everything wrong. I took my kids. I wore jeans. I was wearing a Bob Dylan T-shirt... I came back with Gordon a week later; he had profit-and-loss sheets, looked respectable, and suddenly we were taken seriously."

Ms Roddick says she is aware of many more women leaving big corporations to set up on their own. They have grown tired of the patriarchal culture and crave the flexibility that comes with being your own boss. Women are better networkers than men — they are not frightened to ask questions — and tend to be more innovative.

Companies are increasingly looking to outsource the supply of goods and services, making this a good time to go it alone. "Any woman can set up a small satellite business to do things that big business can't do," Ms Roddick observes. "It's a very exciting time for them."

She adds: "My advice would



Aurelia Cecil, left, set up her public relations firm at the age of 23, while Anita Roddick started Body Shop with a £4,000 loan from her bank manager

be: don't think big, think brilliant, think different. Once you get too big, your original ideas and creativity gets lost. When setting up, you should look to go in the opposite direction. We just ran in the opposite direction to what the cosmetics industry was doing. Once you have found one or two things which are different to the competition, shout it from the rooftops."

Another role model is Aurelia Cecil, sometime consort of the Duke of York, who set up Aurelia Public Relations with a £7,000 small business loan when she was 23. Abbott-Mead Vickers, the advertising group, bought the company last year for up to £4.25 million (depending on hitting growth targets) but Aurelia, 31, remains at the helm. "It's very important that you believe in yourself," she says. "I remember, when I was young, a few people thought this is never going to work. It's like sports people: When they're training at five o'clock in the

morning, they're dreaming of that gold medal. You have to work unbelievably hard: seven days a week, 8am till 11pm."

Caroline Turner, 35, set up Hyperactive Publicity after more than a decade climbing the corporate ladder. She spent years on the road with rock bands such as INXS while working for Laister Dickson, an entertainment publicity company, then worked for a year as director of Warner Films, based in Soho. She says: "It was then that I realised I wasn't a big company person at all."

Ms Turner set up Hyperactive in just eight days after she was approached to handle publicity for the Three Tenors concert. "I would never, ever, work again for a big corporation because so much time is spent on politics and fitting in to the company mode. There is so much more you could do in the job if you were allowed to get on and do what you most want to do."

She adds: "People who should be promoted are passed over for jobs because they don't play the political game, which is why a lot of women are setting up on their own. A big corporation has already got its own culture, and it's very difficult to leave your stamp on it."

Ms Turner says running your own business can be all-consuming, but does not regret the move. "It's the most risky, the most scary, the most frightening, but also the most exhilarating thing that I have done."

Helena Conibear left her job as a Bath-based regional manager with Mentzendorf, importers of Bollinger champagne, and now works from home in rural Somerset running various wine-related projects. She resumed working full-time after the birth of her first baby, Charlotte, but found that her perceptions had changed.

Ms Conibear says: "The great benefit of being self-employed is the flexibility — being able to take a month off in August if you want to — and the variety: it's much more stimulating. It needs much greater discipline, but you are your own boss."

She had progressed as far as she could within Mentzendorf without compromising her family life. "There was no way I could go up without going to London." Her husband, Simon, has a successful career of his own, making the leap in the dark somewhat less daunting. "I found it a terrible shock to start with: losing the pension, the company car, the credit cards, all the eating out... I'd hate to be the main breadwinner. It would be more stressful if you didn't have a second income coming in."

About a third of companies set up in Britain last year were former-ty women, according to Barclays Bank. Only 18 per cent of women in business are under 35, while 40 per cent fall

into the 35 to 44 age group, and 42 per cent are over 45.

Perhaps, not surprisingly, two thirds of businesses run from home are run by women. Benefits include flexible working hours and practices, being your own boss, reduced travelling time and improved quality of life. Being able to look after the children is another important consideration. Barclays expects advances in technology to swell the numbers even further.

Peter Oatley, manager of small business banking at Barclays, says: "Women in general are very positive about the role they're playing in the business community and draw strength from the successful female entrepreneurs such as Anita Roddick, who have made it from very humble beginnings. Career women feel more confident and find it easier to set up on their own."

Mr Oatley's advice to those contemplating this route is to do your research — make sure there is a market for your prod-

uct — and set out your objectives in a clear business plan.

Anita Saldanha, a London-based Lloyds TSB business banking manager, says research is all-important: "It may be a brilliant product, but if there is no market, there's no point. Women tend to be confident and do a lot of research. They come well prepared, and are quite happy to sit and listen."

Studies by Lloyds TSB suggest that women are often financially shrewder than men, and tend to be more structured and long-term in their approach. However, stamina is called for. Ms Saldanha says: "The first thing is to treat the business as something that will take up quite a lot of their working hours. It's not easy money."

One entrepreneur who would agree is Meriel Spencer, 55, who supplies specialist equipment to BT and cable television companies from her home near Swindon. She spent most of her career as a full-time employee before setting up on her own nearly four years ago.

Ms Spencer says: "I thought, if I don't do it now, I never will, but I wish I'd done it 20 years ago, when I had more energy. I love what I do, but it's very hard work in as much as I work some evenings until two o'clock in the morning. I've worked all night. I work weekends. It's home, and you can never get away from it. The phone might ring at 10pm. I don't regret it at all, because I can look back and say: 'I've done it.'"

Mary Bonner, who set up her own catering company 11 years ago, says: "I'd say: do it, but it isn't easy. I've gone through some very difficult times, but my advice would be to just keep your eyes and ears open, because opportunities come along, and you must have the courage to just go with it."

Ms Bonner says women are naturally cut out for the challenge. "Women are prepared to take a few more risks than men. I went through a divorce, had to keep the mortgage going, feed the children... Women are able to do these things. A lot of people think it's very romantic to run your own business. It's not, but you do get a great sense of achievement."

Peter Kilfoyle, Minister for Public Service in the Cabinet Office, will answer questions on better regulation and red tape live on the Enterprise Zone website at www.enterprisezone.org.uk tonight at 6pm.

□ Nearly two thirds of small business owners expect to witness a downturn in trading over the next 18 months, according to the latest *Small Business Bulletin* from Barclays. This has prompted the majority of small firms to take steps to counteract the effects of the economic slowdown, mainly by increasing marketing activity and reducing costs.

□ The number of organisations signing up to the Government-backed better payment practice code has reached 900. The list is on the Internet at www.payontime.co.uk.

□ Co-operative groups should be formed to build Internet knowledge among small businesses, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants has recommended after a study showed little use of the Web. The findings are set out in *UK Business and the Information Superhighway: The Impact of the Internet on SMEs*, which is available free by calling 0141-309 3999.

□ Buying British is preferred by small and medium-sized businesses, which believe they will boost domestic employment in this way. A survey for Lloyds Bank, compiled by the Small Business Research Trust, shows that 45 per cent of businesses actively seek British goods and 12 per cent would pay more to buy British.

□ An audio tape advising small companies on improving productivity has been produced by *Business Pages*, the business-to-business directory. The tape, including tips from Professor Cary Cooper, a management expert, recommends motivating staff through profit-sharing and involving them in decision-making, and reducing stress by performing tasks in order of priority. Inquiries: 0117 982 2005.

□ More people aged 50 and over are starting businesses, partly to maintain their standard of living in retirement, a Barclays Bank study has found. The over-50s proportion of the population has risen from 18 to 20 per cent in six years and the number of businesses started by them is now 50,000 a year. The study revealed that a fifth of these entrepreneurs will stop working only when they die.

Bug-buster campaign links firms to India

By BRIAN COLLETT

BUSINESS Link Thames Valley is putting up £2,400 to back a marketing campaign for a project to link small businesses facing the millennium bug with computer experts in India.

The remote method of millennium-proofing computer software is being offered to small companies to overcome the shortage of information technology specialists here.

Lateral Connections, an employment agency in Bracknell, Berkshire, has found skilled IT people in India to do the bug-busting. The millennium-proofing companies have been vetted by British IT experts. Lateral Connections is offering to fly in teams if businesses prefer to have the work done on site.

Lateral Connections is recruiting more bug-busters in Eastern Europe, mainly Romania, Hungary, Ukraine and Estonia.

Nigel Wood, Lateral Connections' director, believes new solutions are needed because even the 20,000 specialists being trained with government money will not be sufficient.

Bug-busters in Britain are charging between £800 and £2,000 a day. Mr Wood said: "Even bringing in teams is cheaper than using IT people here. We will employ the teams, pay the market rate, and add a margin when billing. This is still about half the price people are charging in the UK."



"Yes! It's a new epoch — chasing euros"

Dockyard site becomes home to IT sector

By IOLA SMITH

AHOME for small businesses that conduct their operations electronically is being established in West Wales.

The listed buildings at Pembroke's Royal Dockyard are being converted into Wales' first information technology park by the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) and Pembrokeshire County Council.

The first company, Graphic Data, has moved in. It specialises in scanning and micro-filming documents, such as technical drawings and plans, and it has created 12 jobs in the park. Three more businesses are considering following suit, including a company belonging to Nigel Cox, one of the park's instigators.

As managing director of Bookflow Limited he specialises in the provision of information services to libraries. But his intention for Pembroke is to attract a cluster of information technology businesses with mutually complementary technologies in the communications and electronic publishing sectors.

He is convinced that, by sharing facilities and specialist equipment, companies' costs can be reduced.

"To make this scheme a focus of European importance we need to create a substantial range of job opportunities," Mr Cox said. This would "justify investment in the development of necessary skills and intellectual interests."

West Wales Training and Enterprise Council has already been roped in to provide the requisite training for local people.

Attracting new industrial sectors to West Wales is crucial after the crisis in agriculture and the cutbacks in the oil industry. Information technology is particularly welcome as a job creator, according to Nick Ainger, Labour MP for Pembrokeshire, because it "overcomes the peripheralisation" that has plagued Pembrokeshire for years.

The WDA also plans a programme to encourage the spinning-out of more businesses from Welsh higher education. The long-term aim of the Top Spin programme is to build a cluster of high-tech companies to exploit research work at Welsh academic institutions and provide work for the 90,000 full-time students that attend them.

Business start-up support is likely to include interest-free loans of up to £25,000, access to market research, use of workspace and technical facilities at universities and consultancy. It is hoped that some funding will come from the European Regional Development Fund.

One of the task force members is Dr Owen Jones, chairman of AgriSense, a company set up in 1984 as a spin-out to exploit biological technology developed partly at Cardiff University.

State aid to boost electronic business

By SALLY WATTS

AN EXTRA £20 million will help more small firms to take advantage of the opportunities provided by electronic commerce. By 2002, the Government aims to triple to one million the number of small businesses wired up to the digital marketplace. Measures will include removing legal barriers to on-line trading.

This extension of the Government's Information Society Initiative is announced in the White Paper, *Our Competitive Future: Building the Knowledge Driven Economy*.

The White Paper also announces support for growing SMEs in English regions facing economic difficulty or high unemployment, such as coal-mining areas, cities, coastal towns or countryside areas with a decline in traditional job opportunities. This support will come via the new regional development agencies.

Through a new £150 million Enterprise Fund, entrepreneurs will be helped to start and grow high-value businesses; the fund will build on the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme and will stimulate venture capital for businesses with potential to grow.

A further incentive will be increased opportunities for small companies to collaborate with both large companies and universities to develop ideas. In addition, new centres of expertise will be attached to Business Links to provide specialist services.

Access to e-mails queried

PLANS to restrict police access to e-mails has led to an alternative proposal that is even more intrusive, says Maclay Murray & Spens, a firm of solicitors that claims to have the largest intellectual property department in Scotland (Brian Collett writes).

At present, the police need a warrant to gain access to e-mails if Internet providers

refuse to hand over information. Under proposed changes the police would still need a warrant, but would be licensed to use decoding software for encrypted e-mails. To avoid this, the Internet providers are discussing an agreement allowing the police to monitor e-mails without a warrant.

Clair McCartney, of Maclay Murray & Spens, said

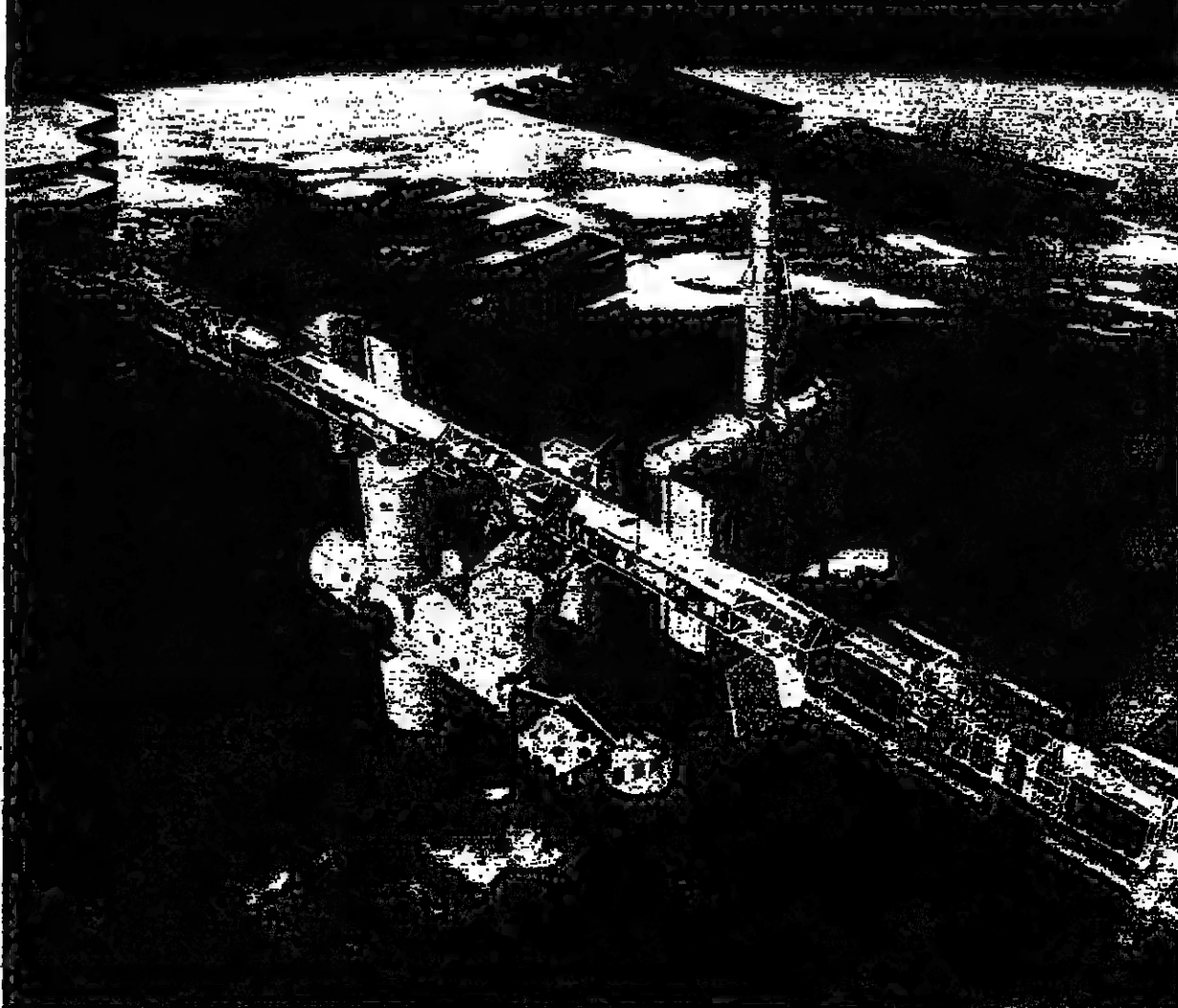
both moves could deter small businesses from using electronic commerce, which is being promoted by the European Commission as the trading medium of the future.

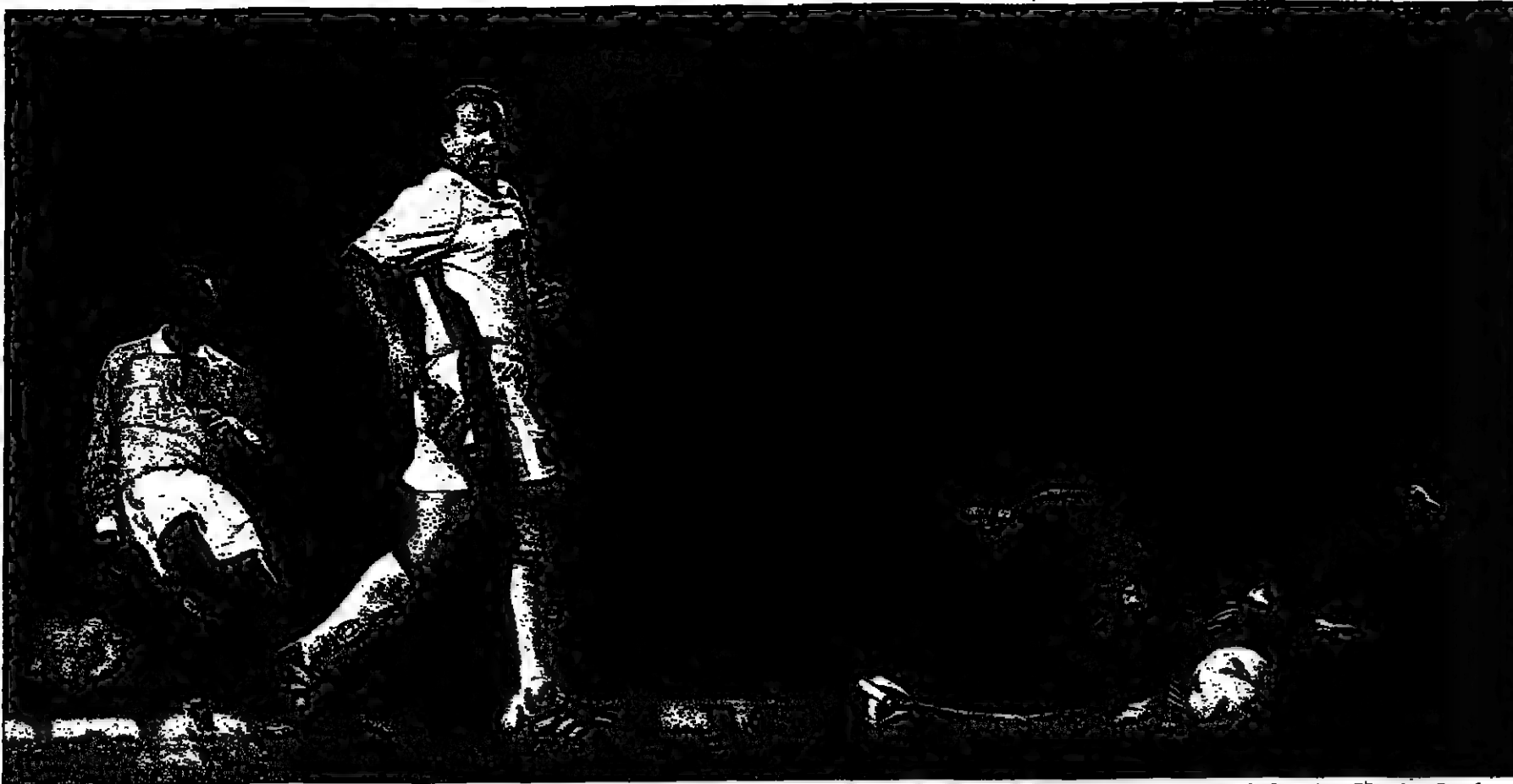
The law firm will approach the Home Office with objections to any intrusion into confidential e-mails when it knows whether the agreement or legislation is to go ahead.

THE TIMES news first

News as it happens

A unique resource from The Times website. Breaking ticker-tape news throughout the day from 7am to 10pm backed by bulletins and previews of tomorrow's offline and online editions.





Red alert: Andy Cole slots the ball past Shaka Hislop for his second goal and Manchester United's third in their easy 4-1 win over a disappointing West Ham on Sunday

Revealed: why the Big Ron factor will sink Arsenal

In a fortnight's time *The Times* Fantasy League will be taking a week's break while the fourth-round FA Cup matches are played. On Tuesday January 24 we will publish player lists updated to include the Aston Villa v Everton game played on Monday January 18, but there will be no weekly prize or ON-Target numbers. Prizes will roll over to the following week.

If you are planning a transfer or two, it might be worth thinking about taking the unusual step of replacing any Arsenal defenders you may have in your side. Why? Consider the following.

On December 21, 1996 Arsenal led the FA Carling Premiership table when they visited the City Ground to play Nottingham Forest, the bottom team. However, Forest had just made a managerial change, replacing Frank Clark with Stuart Pearce. Inspired by the new boss, Forest triumphed 2-1.

We move on to November 22, 1997. Big Ron Atkinson had just taken control at moribund Sheffield Wednesday, and found himself facing the daunting prospect of a visit from none other than Arsenal, in second place, fresh from a 3-2 win over Manchester United, for his first game in charge of the team. Inspired by the new boss, Wednesday triumphed 2-0.

We move on again. It is January 1999. Nottingham Forest have sacked Dave Bassett, and confirmed the appointment of Ron Atkinson as their new manager. On Saturday, his first match in charge of his new side will be at the City Ground, against — you guessed it, Arsenal. Inspired by the new boss...?

This weekend's matches are the "return fixtures" of the opening games of the season. Wimbledon beat Tottenham 3-1 at Selhurst Park on a sunny day in August, and kick off a three-game series against the same opposition with an encounter at White Hart Lane, before meeting Spurs twice more in Worthington and FA Cup ties. Expect a cagey performance from the visitors, who

relish visiting the more fashionable London grounds and punting expectations. Rest assured that Joe Kinnear will have devised a plan for dealing with David Ginola, and will be looking forward to putting it into practice on Saturday.

Elsewhere, the games between Leeds United and Middlesbrough and Derby County and Blackburn look too close to call, but Chelsea, Liverpool and West Ham will expect three points each from home matches with Coventry, Southampton and Sheffield Wednesday respectively. Chelsea, especially, will be looking forward to revenge against Coventry, whose opening-day 2-1 victory was Chelsea's only league defeat of the season so far.

Perhaps the most interesting match-up sees Manchester United visit Filbert Street to face Martin O'Neill's high-energy Leicester City team, who will be without the suspended Matt Elliott, but will still make things difficult for the visitors. On Sunday, what price an end to Charlton's losing run when inconsistent Newcastle come to The Valley?

Do not forget to check your team total against today's ON-Target number. If the numbers match, you have qualified to enter a draw which could win you £500 cash plus an EA Sports Pack. Even if your team scored only nine points in the week beginning January 5, you still have a chance of winning.

PRIZES

- £50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final
- £10,000 to the runner-up
- £5,000 for third place
- £2,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment
- 2500 weekly prizes: 38 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment
- £1,000 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt
- £500 weekly On-Target prize

HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your

team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

LUCKY DIP If you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Postal entries only.

TO ENTER BY PHONE Call 0640 67 88 99 (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-

tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the UK are charged at national rates. Calls from payphones cost approximately double.



As I was saying

I don't want to seem to be boring... Perish the thought. Or a bit of an anorak... I would never accuse you of such a thing. But Newcastle's socks are beginning to worry me. You don't mean they've changed them again? I'm afraid so.

What is it now, then? Pink? Purple? A special winter design in brown, so as not to show the mud?

Well, nothing so drastic, actually. Still black, but that white ring round the middle seems to have disappeared now, judging by the television pictures of the Chelsea game. So you're telling me that the Newcastle socks you got me for Christmas are out of date already, are you? I may be. But then you probably remember that they changed to white, then went back to their original design again; so it may not be too late. You'll be back in fashion in no time at all. Is it Ron Gallit being superstitious, do you reckon?

There's no doubt in my mind. Get the socks right, and the rest will follow. And a set of socks costs much less than a new left back. Are you sure? Have you seen the prices of football kit recently? OK, a decent left back, then. Are you Fantasy League managers superstitious at all? Do you have any sad rituals like always watching the weather forecast on Telford before looking at the results? Or wearing a lucky hat to check the player

list? Putting one sock on before the other? You'd end up with two socks on one foot if you didn't. Mind you, some of my fantasy team seem to grow two left feet as soon as I transfer them to worry me. I put Berkovic in my new team? Only two points from him on Sunday.

Lucky to get that. West Ham never do well at Old Trafford. In fact, they're not so hot in away games generally.

What you're saying is that players who are with teams that are more consistent will get you more regular points. So who should I avoid, apart from West Ham? Newcastle, I'd say, and Derby, too. You never know what they're going to do. Southampton and Blackburn look as if they might make a determined surge away from the bottom of the table, but neither performs too well away from home.

So who do you recommend? Charlton. With eight straight defeats? You can't get more consistent than that.



CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).

GOALKEEPERS

CODE	NAME	CLUB	WEEKLY	TOTAL	VALUATION
102	D. Seaman	ARS	1.0	1.0	1.0
103	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
104	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
105	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
106	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
107	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
108	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
109	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
110	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
111	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
112	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
113	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
114	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
115	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
116	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
117	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
118	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
119	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
120	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
121	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
122	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
123	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
124	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
125	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
126	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
127	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
128	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
129	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
130	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
131	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
132	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
133	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
134	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
135	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
136	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
137	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
138	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
139	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
140	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
141	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
142	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
143	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
144	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
145	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
146	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
147	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
148	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
149	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
150	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
151	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
152	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
153	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
154	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
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188	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
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191	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
192	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
193	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
194	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
195	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
196	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
197	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
198	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
199	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
200	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0

FULL BACKS

CODE	NAME	CLUB	WEEKLY	TOTAL	VALUATION
201	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
202	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
203	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
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210	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
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213	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
214	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
215	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
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217	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
218	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
219	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
220	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
221	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
222	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
223	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
224	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
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231	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
232	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
233	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
234	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
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236	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
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239	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
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241	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
242	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
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251	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
252	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
253	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
254	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
255	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
256	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
257	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
258	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
259	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
260	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
261	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
262	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
263	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
264	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
265	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0
266	M. Hennessey	AST	1.0	1.0	1.0

Accountant's team adds up to £500

This week's Fantasy League winner from Lincolnshire showed the benefit of using the transfer allocation in a shrewd way

Last week on these pages, we were complaining that several players on *The Times* Fantasy League lists had accomplished fine feats in the FA Cup which counted for nothing in Fantasy terms as they had taken place in FA Cup third-round ties. Darren Huckerby's hat-trick in the game against Macclesfield Town was mentioned prominently.

Well, as if to make up for the frustration and anguish suffered seven days ago by Fantasy League entrants with Huckerby in their team, the Coventry City centre forward did it again on Saturday in his team's 4-0 win over Nottingham Forest at Highfield Road.

A low half-volley from John Aloisi's flick and a chip over Dave Beasant were followed by Huckerby's characteristic run from deep, beating man after man before slipping the ball home. And he hit a post after running from his own half, just for good measure.

Huckerby began his career at Lincoln City before being signed by Newcastle United. For some reason best known to Kevin Keegan, the manager, he played only once before being loaned to Millwall, for whom he scored three times in six games, and then sold to Coventry. In these days of target men and withdrawn forwards playing "in the hole", he is something of a throwback.

Described while at Millwall as "a player who sees the whites of the goalposts and heads off towards them by the most direct route possible", he is a single-minded goalscorer, who also happens to possess considerable dribbling skills and a thunderous shot.

He can also be immensely frustrating. Many people will recall the playground superstar of their school days who got hold of the ball and would not let it go until he either scored or was dispossessed, and some of them feel a sense of déjà vu when they set eyes on Huckerby.

Last season, as Coventry cantered to a 5-1 victory over Bolton Wanderers at the Reebok Stadium, there was a revealing moment when Huckerby broke clear of the last defender with George Boateng, the midfield player, in close support. As they neared the edge of the penalty area, Boateng thought better of it and stopped running. He knew full well that, with the goal in his sights, Huckerby would never entertain the notion of passing; nor did he. His failure to score was probably forgiven when he later netted twice.

Saturday's hat-trick was worth nine points to any Fantasy League competitors fortunate enough to have selected him: Jim Ball, for



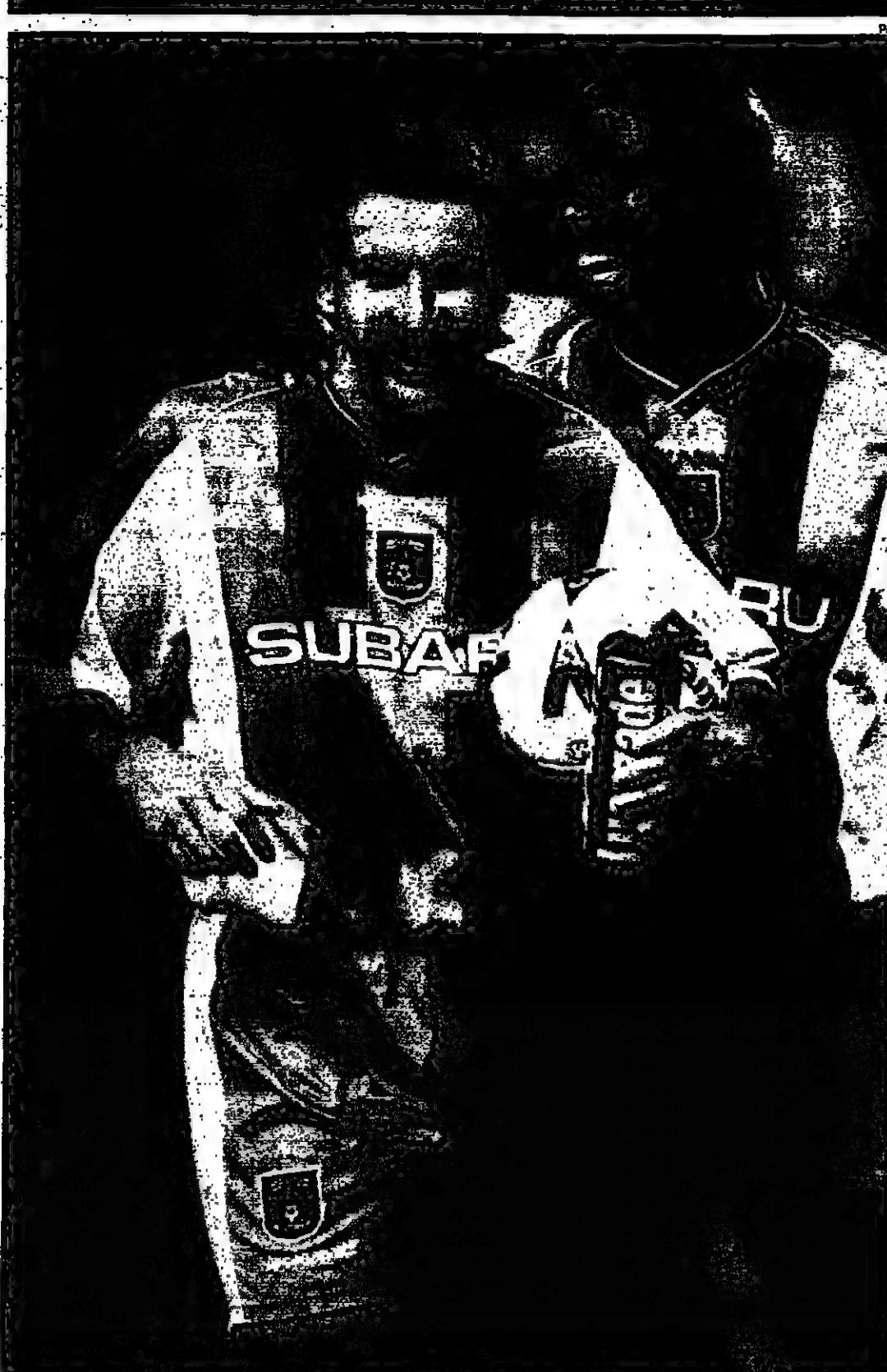
COMPANY CHIEFS FC	
E. De Gony (CHE)	3
A. Mitchell (SHE)	3
M. Ball (EVE)	3
M. Elliott (LEI)	3
G. Foster (MID)	3
J. Redknapp (LIV)	3
E. Barker (WES)	2
A. Johnson (TOT)	2
R. Savage (MAY)	2
D. York (AST)	2
D. Huckerby (COV)	2
TOTAL POINTS: 33	

instance, the winner of this week's prize of £500 plus £100-worth of sports equipment. "One of the cheaper forwards, but likely to score for any team," is the verdict of Mr Ball, a supporter of Crewe Alexandra, on Huckerby.

Mr Ball organises a 24-team league within the company he works for, J. E. Churchill of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, and found that he was spending so much time administering other people's teams that he had to make a conscious effort to update his own. "The team had been doing absolutely nothing for a long time," he explained. "I sat down about two months ago and made half a dozen transfers. It's a case of getting around to getting your transfers in." Good advice to Fantasy League managers: his signings included Ryan Giggs, Dwight Yorke and Andy Hinchcliffe, all of whom contributed this week to his total score of 33 points, as well as his namesake, Michael, of Everton, who seems to figure in so many successful Fantasy selections.

So well done, Company Chiefs FC. Mr Ball, an accountant, tells us unashamedly that the name refers to jocular accusations that he cooks the books.

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Can't pass, probably won't pass but when, like Darren Huckerby, you can beat the entire opposition team twice over then put the ball in the back of the net, who's worried? Not supporters of Coventry City, who saw Huckerby's lust for goals (or is it match balls?) net him another hat-trick on Saturday

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

1	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United	245
2	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	234
3	Phil Taylor	Pin-Ups 7	233
4	Michael Langdon	Memphodias	233
5	Royal Kobb	Kuffs Kings 8	233
6	Tony Marnaghan	Tonys Terrors	231
7	Robert Anderson	Roberts Rovers	230
8	Robert Young	Cove 10	228
9	Sean Morgan	Y Not Again 6	228
10	I. Samuels	Spartak Mossley	228
11	John Hives	Boogaloo Dudes	227
12	Scott Brett	Pussies	227
13	Brian Hughes	Dons's Deans FC	226
14	Sam Eastwood	Coen Brothers	226
15	Paulie Mackenzie	In The City	226
16	Richard Deane	On The Wings	225
17	Terry Butler	El Tels Revenge	224
18	Ray Walker	Blue & Black Bar	223
19	Paulie Mackenzie	Solo Vans	222
20	Thomas Meador	Tits All Stars	222
21	Ossie Smith	Conzon FC 5	222
22	Scotts Star	Stormtroopers	221
23	Michael Lynn	Stormtroopers	221
24	John Lofthouse	Sold At The Bar	221
25	Murray Macmillan	Murray's Mangers	221
26	Alan Westrop	Tyneside Army 94	221
27	Terry Butler	Dion Dion Dion	221
28	Philip Haddoo	Premier Crusier	220
29	Tony Berra	Barrett St Boys	219
30	Richard Verano	Pono Puck	219
31	Mike Shipley	Minus Threat 10	219
32	Andrew P. Heath	Shonsrow	219
33	Steve Gopal	Lokomodo No Go	219
34	Mike Shipley	Minus Threat	218
35	James Walsh	Tigers Argle	218
36	Robin Clayton	Roberts Rovers	218
37	Don Allport	Cyclones	217
38	Andrew Marsh	Eat My Goal	217
39	Gordon Crutchley	Super Saddlers B	217
40	Nath's Change	Nath's Change	217
41	J. Prissell	Grand Pan Pico	217
42	Gary Levermore	Ton-Co. Team	217
43	Markus Carroll	Polystump Yager	217
44	James Kerr	Serious Squad	217
45	Brian Rizzo	Relegation Cens	216
46	Simon Barker	The Times Eleven	216
47	Tony Gammage	Narcos Two	216
48	Phil Taylor	Peter 7	216
49	Chris Wallis	Wallys Wonders 2	215
50	Peter Roe	Bill & Teds Team	215
51	Martha White	Grampus Gunners	215
52	Peter Donnelly	Goals R Us	215
53	Peter Leathem	Spoke Town	215
54	Michael Smith	Alloswesthgh	215
55	Paul Coton	Euro Stars	215
56	Alan Rose	James Pless	214
57	Ross Broadhurst	829-360	214
58	Oliver Chapman	Wigton Rangers	214
59	James Riley	The Promise Stars	214
60	Nicholas Keighley	These Eat Beans	214
61	John Humphreys	Academicals	214
62	Jennifer Cockburn	Yeath Right	214
63	David Southbank	Titus All Stars	214
64	Reda Maher	Pleasantville	214
65	Glenn Reynolds	Wb 20	214
66	John Hall	Milton United	213
67	F. Walshy	Fulham	213
68	Don Sharer	Don 5	213
69	Jon Singh	Inter City 442	213
70	Pauline Hagger	Turkingtons	213
71	David Booth	Forever Everton	213
72	Nigel Kuba	The Adams Family	212
73	Stuart Rutter	Spitonthville	212
74	Raymond George	Razor D	212
75	Laura Marshall	Silly Tarts Ltd	212
76	Mark Cole	Joe Public	212
77	John Owen Bead	Thesuperstars	212
78	Andrew Kavanagh	Super Snipers FC	212
79	Robert Todd	Bobby Blasars	212
80	Darren Brannigan	Monday Moaners	212
81	Mike Tavis	Yebocronitor	212
82	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Mington	211
83	Nathan Smalley	Nathans Lads	211
84	Charles Duncan	Adams Strikers	211
85	Phil Redwell	Toffies 4 Me FC	211
86	Mike Brayne	Och-Ahs	211
87	David Wise	Walsall Reserves	211
88	Richard Mason	Ransomer	211
89	Andy Lockhart	Caroline B	211
90	James Inglis	Pride O The Rock	210
91	Trevor Denton	Chester 5	210
92	Jonathan Bewick	Bezza's Boys	210
93	Jonathan Hayes	Social Brav	210
94	Ross Broadhurst	Team 7152	210
95	Richard Low	Geocir United	210
96	William Allen	Lipsettweavers	210
97	Gary Armstrong	Village United	210
98	Sara Walsh	Son FC	210
99	Andrew James Spencer	This One's Mine	210
100	Steve Walker	Team C	210

Plus two other teams on 210 points

So what if your team is quite useless? You can win anyway

Enter a new team now for ON-Target, where this week you only needs to score a paltry nine points to win the weekly prize

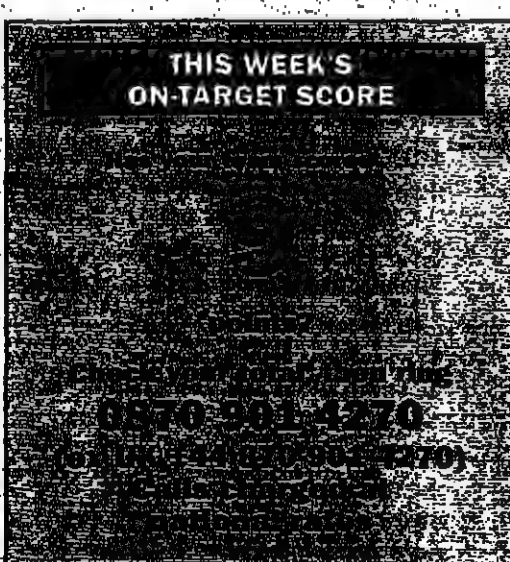
Congratulations to Tony Evans of West Wycombe, the fourth week's main winner of ON-Target, who finds himself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also won themselves excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned FIFA 99 game. Every week you have the chance to win:

■ 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
■ 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
■ 10 additional runners up: FIFA 99 CD-Rom.

Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag. IF YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes. The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week. Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on:

0870 901 4270



If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.

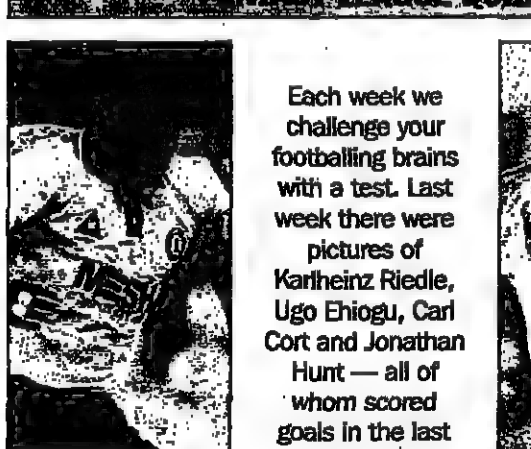


HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline. 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on 0870 901 4270 (calls charged at national rate).

should last about a minute. Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning. If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won. Managers with the correct points who have not called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Winners
This week's winners are: Mr Tony Evans of West Wycombe, (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); Mr Simon Caldwell of Holyhead; Mr Lawrence Dawney of London N17; Ms Nicola Bridge of London W13 and Mr L. Benson of Ormskirk (EA Sports Packs); Ms Helen Barrow of Warral; Mr Jamie Bryan of London E3; Mr Martin Freeman of Edgubaston; Mr R. Nelson of London SW6; Mr Daniel Jennings of Bristol; Mr Graham Waters of Shrewsbury; Mr David Hargrave of Kirtlington; Leeds; Mr Peter Mason of Weston-super-Mare; Mark Hitchcocks of West Bromwich; and Mr Eddie Chamberlain of Basingstoke (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).

FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ



Each week we challenge your footballing brains with a test. Last week there were pictures of Karlheinz Riedle, Ugo Ehiogu, Carl Cort and Jonathan Hunt — all of whom scored goals in the last ten minutes of their matches the previous weekend.

This week we offer four more pictures with a connection. Identify the names and the link should become obvious. Answer next week



Flo, flu, sicknotes and suspensions

Last week, we touched on the subject of the importance of injuries, illnesses and suspensions in *The Times* Fantasy League, which events over the past weekend only served to emphasise.

Any player who picked up his fifth or eighth booking of the season received a one-match suspension for the fourth round of the FA Cup. The good news for Fantasy League managers is that it ensures that the player concerned will not miss an all-important Premiership match as a result of suspension. Both Phil Babb and Martin Keown came into this category, and Fantasy managers with either of these two in their teams are able to raise a wry smile.

However, suspensions are starting to mount as players reach the critical number of yellow cards for a one-match ban. Steve Stone, Matt Elliott and Neil Redfearn are among those missing out next weekend, with Paulo Wanchope and Patrick Vieira banned for the next two league games after recent sendings-off. On the subject of illnesses, it

is the time of year when the flu bug makes an impact on many Premiership sides, although the effect of the virus tends to depend on the player who is stricken. For example, Paul Ince showed his determination to increase his Fantasy League points total even though, by his own admission, he was feeling distinctly under the weather. Despite not producing his usual standard of performance, he realised that he is unable to add to his tally if he doesn't play. In contrast, if Darren "Sicknote" Anderton has so much as a sniffle, it is rumoured that he hands Spurs manager George Graham a letter from his mother excusing him from training. However, it was a thigh injury that caused

him to miss the last hour of Tottenham's encounter with Sheffield Wednesday at the weekend.

It could be interesting to keep an eye on players who are returning to first-team action after a long injury lay-off, or those replacing an injured regular. Gary Kelly, for instance, is lined up for an imminent return to the Leeds United team after a long-term injury and his wing-back role makes him perfectly capable of amassing plenty of assists from wide positions. Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli, too, is likely to make the most of Tore Andre Flo's six-week absence by putting himself straight into the first team.

MATT BINES

CHECK YOUR SCORES TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE TOP 10

1	Robert Anderson	Roberts Rovers	230
2	David Southbank	Titus All Stars	214
3	Stuart Rutter	Spitonthville	212
4	Richard Low	Geocir United	210
5	Alexander Thackeray-Norris	Finchmeadows	210
6	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	209
7	Paul Williams	Where Was Gazza	207
8	Richard Burton	No Fear	207
9	Matthew O'Neill	The M Team	206
10	Daisy Martin	Saxham Tuesdays	206



Gianluca Festa, who features in the weekly winning team

Santer agrees EU clean-up

All European Union staff are to be bound by a code of conduct designed to curb corruption, nepotism and mismanagement under reforms accepted by Jacques Santer to avoid censure and the dismissal of all European Commissioners.

The Commission President also accepted a proposal from the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder for a high-level review of the Commission's workings by the Parliament and member states. Pages 1, 11

Beachy Head crumbles

Safety experts were examining Beachy Head after a section of rockface crashed into the sea in what could be Britain's biggest single loss of coastline in living memory. The unmanned lighthouse has been effectively rejoined to the Sussex coast after thousands of tonnes of chalk fell 500ft into the sea. Page 1

Yemeni charges

Five Britons detained in Yemen on suspicion of plotting terrorist outrages are likely to be charged within 48 hours, Robin Cook told the Commons. Page 1

Blair gamble

Tony Blair put the beleaguered National Health Service at the heart of his attempt to reassert the Government's authority. Page 1

Muslim violence

A radical London-based Muslim organisation has a website which depicts a hand grenade and promotes the use of violence. Page 3

Mandelson's hope

Peter Mandelson could be back in the Cabinet before the end of next year. The timing of such a return would allow the former Trade Secretary to perform a high-profile role in the run up to the next general election. Page 2

Boot camp praised

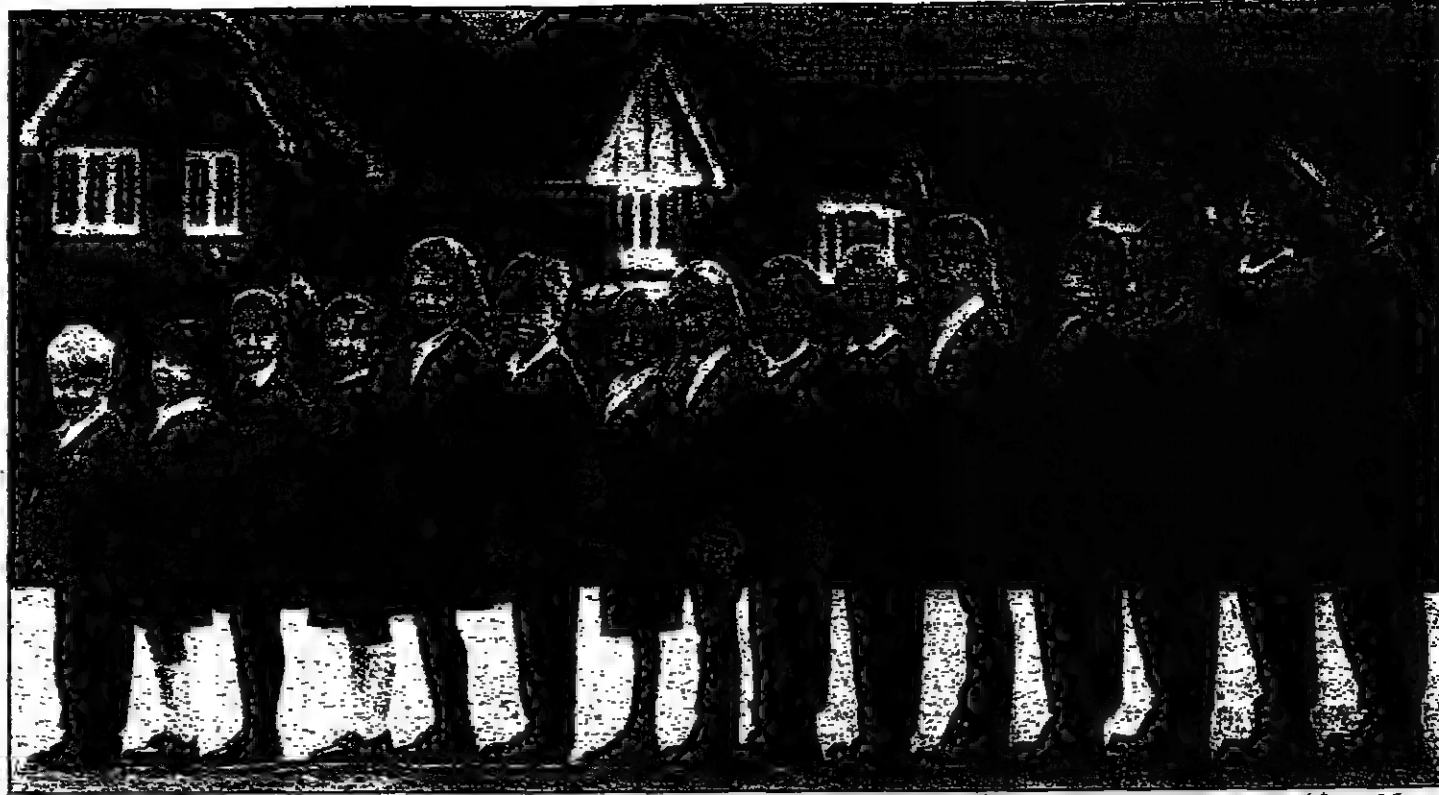
Offenders at the only "boot camp" in England and Wales have praised the tough regime of drill and physical exercise provided there, according to an inspection report. Page 4

Policeman accused

A police officer stole £700 from an 83-year-old disabled woman after calling at her home to give advice on crime prevention, a court was told. Page 5

Guardians of the lost Ark

For nearly 3,000 years, as fans of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* might know, people have been searching for the lost Ark of the Covenant. In Ethiopia, however, the search for the chest containing the Ten Commandments never began. The Ethiopians believe that the Holy Ark has been with them all along, or at least since it was removed from Jerusalem. Page 10



The six sets of twins and one set of triplets ranging in age from five to nine, at Mornington Primary School, Nuthall, Nottinghamshire

Farmer Bell

Martin Bell, the Independent MP, is about to be overshadowed once more by his late father. Adrian Bell's bestselling book, *Corduroy*, telling how he came to live and work on a small Suffolk farm, has returned to print for the first time in 20 years. Page 6

Teacher's trauma

A teacher who helped to identify dead and injured children after the Dunblane massacre has been awarded compensation for mental trauma, while some bereaved families have yet to receive a penny. Page 7

Brown's defence

Gordon Brown mounted a strong defence of new Labour and heaped praise on Tony Blair's modernising in a bid to reassure the public that there was no rift between them. Page 8

Iraqi targets

American warplanes fired on Iraqi missile batteries and Kuwait put some of its forces on "maximum alert" in two attacks as tension escalated with a defiant Baghdad. Page 9

Freetown fighting

Fierce fighting flared up again in Freetown as Nigerian-led intervention forces launched a counter-attack to drive rebels from the port and eastern part of Sierra Leone's capital. Page 10

Tobacco merger: British American

Tobacco announced a £15 billion merger with Rothmans International, which will have a 16 per cent share of the worldwide cigarette market. Page 25

Goldman coup

The chief executive of Goldman Sachs was pushed aside in an internal power struggle yesterday after forcing the investment banking partnership into an ill-fated flotation. Page 25

Post charge

The Post Office and the Government were attacked for secrecy over the first big overseas postal purchase — thought to be worth up to £375 million. Page 25

Markets

The FTSE100 fell 62.2 to 6085.0. The pound fell .01 cents to \$1.6400 and rose .06p to 70.34p against the euro. Page 28

Crickets: England recorded their second

win in two matches in the triangular series in Australia when they beat Sri Lanka by four wickets with three balls to spare. Page 48

Football: Ron Atkinson's appointment

as manager of Nottingham Forest was confirmed. He will begin the job on Friday, the day before his new team, in bottom place, plays the reigning Premiership champions, Arsenal. Page 48

Rugby league: Maurice Lindsay is

to step down after spending 20 years at the forefront of the British game. Page 45

Racing: Jockeys, who break the

whip rules in big races from March 1 could be given a lengthy ban. The offending rider will be referred to the Jockey Club. Page 43

Comic cuts: Liz Lochhead's warm

play *Perfect Days* arrives in London from its Edinburgh success, with Siobhan Redmond playing celebrity hairdresser Barbie, desperate for a baby. Page 32

Music, maestro: The PLG Young

Artists Series continues with an impressive performance of lives by an Australian pianist. The Hallé pays homage to Catalonia. Page 32

Saatchi says: Not content with

collecting contemporary art by the truckload, Charles Saatchi has now named an entire art movement — Neurotic Realism. Page 33

White magic: The dance form

but has come a long way since its birth in Japan in the 1950s, as Sankai Juku's audiences will discover from Sankai Juku. Page 34

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE

■ IT and the art of dreams. Plus, helping the blind to join the Internet.

HOMES

■ For sale, London's most splendid town house



Live longer: In the second

extract from his book, the scientist Tom Kirkwood discusses anti-ageing foods and supplements. Page 14

Doing time: Zimmer frames in the

cell blocks, the sort of depressing sight to which General Sir David Ramsbotham, has become inured since he became Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons. Page 15

Mummy's boy: Every woman

knows that for all their talk of independent lifestyles, men just want to be mothered. Page 15

IT boost: An extra £20 million will

be provided to help small firms to take advantage of electronic commerce. Page 24

Temple talk: Not for years has an

issue so dominated talk in the Temple and divided the talkers so deeply as the rights and wrongs of the Pinchock affair. Page 37

Benjamin Netanyahu's original

political patron, Moshe Arens, will be running against him in the party primary on January 25. It was confirmed yesterday. He will thus join MK Uri Landau in challenging the increasingly beleaguered Netanyahu for the Likud leadership. Page 19

Review: The effects of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (ITV, 10.40) Review: The League of Gentlemen already has the feel of a cult show, says Joe Joseph. Pages 46, 47

A fresh wind

With Labour always looking for a fresh wind, Mr Blair could let Mr Mandelson loose on campaigning before the election. But even "the last lot" would not have countenanced a return to office so soon after such a disgrace. Page 17

Real Germans

Germany is one of the few countries in Western Europe that still equates citizenship with blood and soil. Apart from the unpleasant association with racial purity, the law is patently unsuited to today's conditions. Page 17

Once two is two

Numeracy is a basic skill which every parent expects their child to acquire, and which too many schools are failing to impart. Page 17

LIBBY PURVES

The only test of any action is whether it does good, and who can possibly benefit from this post-mortem character assassination? Page 16

JAMES LAUGHLAND

The Bank of England should be privatised; it should mint a gold coin, the sovereign; and banknotes should be issued which are convertible on demand into it. Page 16

MICHAEL GOVE

Are the members of the Labour Party, and the readers of *The Guardian* aware of the obsessions which grip the leader of their party and their paper's editor? Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

In the end, everything that matters in this Government comes back to Gordon Brown. Page 8

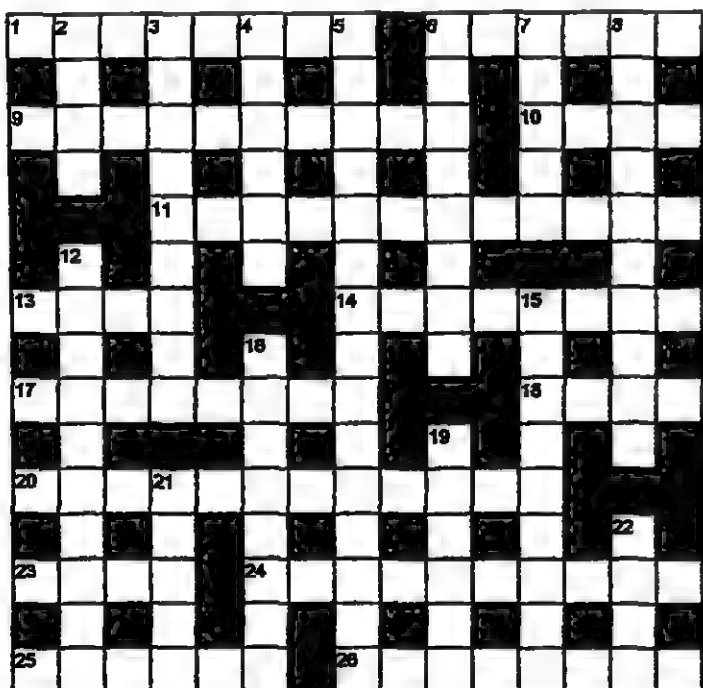
Colonel Anthony Shumwood, M19

officer: Jean-Claude Forêt, cartoonist: Professor Tadeusz Rybczyński, economist. Page 19

Nurses' term-time holidays: officers'

origins: religion; interest rates; honour in politics. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,998



ACROSS

- A revolutionary objective rejected in educational setting (8).
- Period of abstinence in extremes of poverty is quite enough (6).
- Gambler offering odds against Euro-currency taking pound to a peak (10).
- See red coming into fashion (4).
- Dreadfully sad once I lost (12).
- Crew throwing individual in ocean (4).
- Regular soldiers, though, do cross (8).
- An awful lot eater put into stomach (8).
- Induced doctor to join partnership (4).
- Confusion produced by less disciplined troops in venture (12).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,997

APPLAUD DISMISS
RAGE ROYAL
CONFIDENTIAL OPERA
HUNTER VILLAINS
IN THE SAME BOAT
LEWIS RYAN
EUROPEAN ARDENT
TINY BILLY
TISSUE CRACKLE
EMERGENCY
ROUND THE CLOCK
HIDEOUTS
ALARM QUODLIBET
A FEW LEO
DESERVE INDEXED

DOWN

- Hash available in eating-place (4).
- Secret writing found in vault given zero weight (10).
- Dormant reptile has secured shelter (6).
- Looking gloomy — it's depressing (8).
- Cloak many copy (4).
- Decline of new church seen, a number of years earlier (9).
- Like the issue of mixed parentage, difficult to handle (6).
- Early star or moon confused eminent watcher of the skies (10,5).
- Mistake, say, supplied by the host (8).
- Learning to climb, put name in register (5).
- Highly-strung performers' lines (10).
- Stream goes irregularly into large fork (10).
- New store glad to get such an experienced person (3,6).
- Race drivers, of course, are rated by it (8).
- Town centre pursuing supreme award (6).
- Publish this paper without leader (5).
- The thread of a story (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Latest Road and Weather conditions

DE Weather: All regions 0230-444 910
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Weather by Fax

DE Weather: All regions 0230-444 910
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World City Weather

DE Weather: All regions 0230-444 910
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Motorway

DE Weather: All regions 0230-444 910
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AA Car reports by fax

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Sun sets

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NEWSPAPERS

DE Weather: All regions 0230-444 910
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FREE BOOKS

DE Weather: All regions 0230-444 910
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FOR SCHOOLS

DE Weather: All regions 0230-444 910
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THE TIMES

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General: rain in all areas, briefly

preceded by snow in Scotland, Wales, and western and northern England, especially on hills. One overnight escape in Northern Ireland and western Scotland.

London, SE & E England, E Angles:

staring dry and cold. Heavy rain by afternoon. Wind fresh SW, Max 6C (45F).

Central S England, Midlands: heavy

rain, snow on higher ground, clear later. Wind fresh S, Max 7C (45F).

Channel Islands: heavy rain clearing

later. Wind fresh S, Max 7C (45F).

SW, NW, Central N & NE England,

Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: rain and hazy snow, then sunny spells and showers. Wind fresh SW to W, Max 6C (45F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: heavy

rain and snow then sunny spells and showers. Wind strong SE to W, Max 5C (41F).

Abertawe, Moray Firth, NE Scotland,

Orkney, Shetland: rain and snow clearing to sunny spells and blustery showers. Wind strong SE to W, Max 5C (41F).

CI SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central

Highlands, Argyll: breezy with frequent showers, some heavy. Wind fresh to strong, W to NW, Max 6C (45F).

CI Ireland: breezy with sunny spells

and showers. Wind fresh W, Max 7C (45F).

Republic of Ireland: sunny intervals

and blustery showers, especially in northwest. Wind strong NW, Max 8C (46F).

Outlook: wet and windy.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b—bright; c—cloud; d—drizzle; ds—dust storm; du—dull; f—fog; g—gale; h—hail; i—mist; s—snow; sh—showers; st—stale; su—sun; t—thunder

Yesterday's highest day temp: Penzance 8C (46F); Lowest Aviemore -1C

(30F); Highest rainfall Folkestone 0.35ins; Sunniest Torquay 7.8hrs

Forecast for today

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Forecast for tomorrow

DE Weather: All regions 0230-444 910
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Forecast for the day after tomorrow

DE Weather: All regions 0230-444 910
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Changes to chart below from noon: Low A moves NE and deepens.

Low K fills in situ, Low G edges NE with little change in pressure.



Changes to chart below from noon: Low A moves NE and deepens.

Low K fills in situ, Low G edges NE with little change in pressure.



TODAY

Bedford	8:30	3.4	2052	3.5	Liverpool	8:30	3.5	2053	3.6
Bedford	8:30	3.4	2052	3.5	Liverpool	8:30	3.5	2053	3.6
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THE TIMES

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ECONOMICS

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makes his
1999 predictions

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Siobhan Redmond's
latest play

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raised a host
of issues

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TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patricia Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JANUARY 12 1999

Corzine loses out in Goldman Sachs shake-up

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

JON CORZINE, the Goldman Sachs chief executive, was pushed aside in an internal power struggle yesterday after forcing the investment banking partnership into an ill-fated flotation.

John Thornton, the Laura Ashley chairman and a senior partner, will

become co-chief operating officer and is being lined up as a future head of the top Wall Street house.

Mr Corzine, 52, had been the chief architect of the postponed \$30 billion (£18 billion) flotation that would subject the business to the public scrutiny of shareholders.

The controversial flotation was put on hold in the autumn after market turmoil had reduced the poten-

tial windfall. The 250 partners were set to be given equity stakes ranging from \$50 million up to a rumoured \$1 billion for Mr Corzine.

Mr Corzine, who will remain a partner, said: "I believe that this is in the best long-term interest of the firm. I will now concentrate my energies on successfully completing our initial public offering." Goldman has not yet rescheduled the flotation.

The post of chief executive will be filled by Hank Paulson. Mr Corzine and Mr Paulson will continue to be co-chairmen. Mr Corzine will not receive a payoff.

Mr Thornton will share the post of co-chief operating officer with John Thain. A Goldman statement said they would have "broad responsibilities for the entire firm, across all divisions and regions". Insiders

see this as a clear hint that Mr Thornton and Mr Thain are set to rise further to the top.

Mr Thornton holds the post of managing director at Goldman Sachs International, the London subsidiary.

Goldman's senior management committees were also reshuffled yesterday. The all-powerful executive committee, a six-man cabal that vet-

ted all executive decisions, will be replaced by a new management committee of which Mr Corzine will not be a member.

Mr Paulson said: "The best time for transition is during a period of great strength. We believe the appointments and the evolution of the governance of the firm will strengthen our management focus and keep the firm on a solid foundation."

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100 6088.6 (+22.2)

FTSE All Share 2782.73 (+21.95)

Nikkei 13688.48 (+22.53)

New York Dow Jones 8574.07 (+69.25)

S&P Composite 1261.40 (+13.68)

US RATE 4 1/2% (4 1/2%)

Long bond 5.30% (5.30%)

Yield 5.30% (5.26%)

3-mth interbank 5 1/4% (5 1/4%)

Life long gilt 119.24 (119.54)

Future (Mar) 119.24 (119.54)

US\$ \$ 1.6379 (1.6410)

London 1.6401 (1.6403)

¥ 1.6220 (1.6198)

SFr 2.2922 (2.2898)

Yen 179.30 (182.79)

£ Index 103.0 (103.7)

Tokyo close Yen 110.40

North Sea Oil Brent 15-day (Mar) \$12.10 (\$11.55)

Oil \$29.70 (\$29.14)

London close \$29.70 (\$29.14)

Exchange rates Page 28

* denotes midday trading prices

January sale fails to lift Austin Reed

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

AUSTIN REED, the clothing retailer, issued a profits warning yesterday after its January sale fell flat.

The company said that after a dismal run-up to Christmas, the anticipated rush of customers to its sale had failed to materialise.

Colin Evans, chairman, said: "There has been too much discounting through the season and the bi-annual sales have much less impact." The company brought forward its final discounts to try to clear stock before the new season.

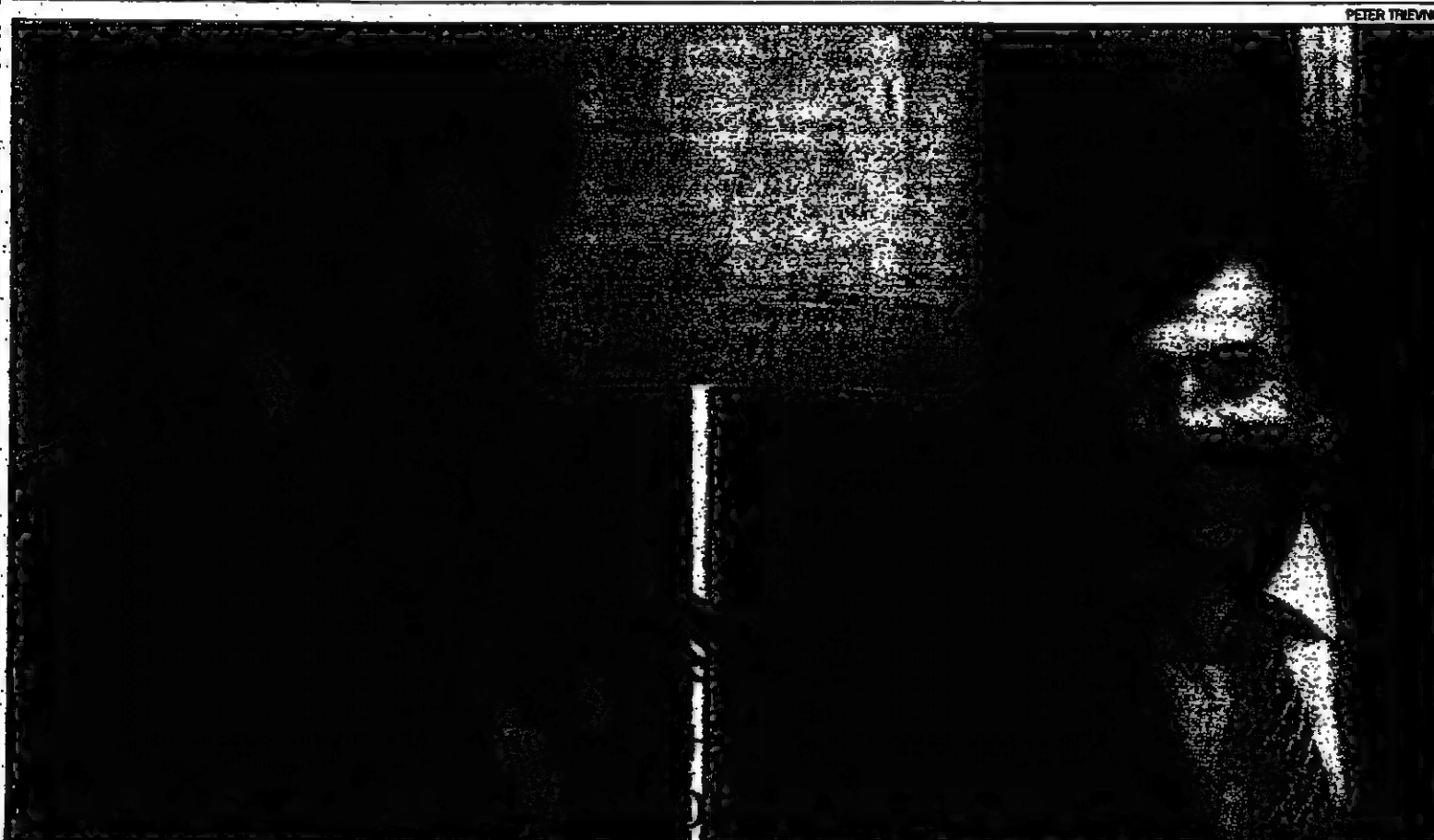
Mr Evans said that levels were now under control and margins have been maintained.

Like-for-like sales for the half year to January 31 are likely to be 12 per cent below last year, Austin Reed said. The sale period taken alone fared even worse. Interim pre-tax profit is expected to be between £6 million and £6.5 million, the company said, compared with forecasts of nearer £9 million.

Austin Reed also announced that it is closing a shirt factory in Ireland's Co Donegal, with the loss of 136 jobs.

Wm Morrison, the supermarket group based in Yorkshire, said that like-for-like sales in the five weeks to January 3 were 3.4 per cent higher, boosting its own shares by 10 1/2p to 297p and lifting the whole food retail sector.

Elsewhere, Ottakar's, the bookshelves, said like-for-like sales in the six weeks to January 2 were 6.3 per cent higher, while Majestic Wine saw its like-for-like sales up 2.7 per cent in the nine weeks to January 4. Merchant Retail Group, which owns the Perfume Shop and Joplings department stores, saw like-for-like sales up 6.2 per cent in the five weeks to January 2.



Johann Rupert, chief executive of Richemont and chairman of Rembrandt, left, and Martin Broughton, chairman of British American Tobacco

Tobacco merger will cost thousands of jobs

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of jobs are likely to be lost worldwide as a result of the £15 billion merger of cigarette giants British American Tobacco and Rothmans International.

BAT admitted yesterday that jobs would be cut, but refused to be drawn on where the axe would fall. Together the two employ 70,000 people around the world, and about 5,500 in the UK.

Despite its name BAT neither produces nor sells cigarettes in the UK. Rothmans, has production facilities and 1,200 jobs in the Prime Minister's constituency in Co Durham, which may be hit. Rothmans also employs people at Southampton. Head office

personnel from both companies are also likely to be at risk.

Martin Broughton, chief executive of BAT, said there would be annual cost savings of £250 million. The deal would also enhance earnings in the year to December 2000, but give rise to £400 million of one-off charges.

BAT shares jumped 15 per cent to 625p. Since October 1997, when the company revealed plans to demerge its financial services businesses, shareholders — who now hold shares in the separately quoted companies BAT and Allied Zurich — have seen the value of their investments rise 46 per cent.

The Rothmans merger is an all-share deal and using

BAT's opening share price yesterday the value of Rothmans was £4.6 billion and the worth of the combined business £13 billion. However, because of the rise in the BAT share price Rothmans' value rose to £5.3 billion by the close and the combination to nearly £15 billion.

The link with Rothmans confounds speculation that BAT was looking to combine with Reynolds, the US tobacco firm owned by RJR Nabisco.

The Rothmans deal was presented as a merger but most observers see it as a takeover by BAT of Rothmans. The name of the business will remain BAT, and the senior board positions will remain unchanged.

Rothmans is owned by Rich-

emont, the luxury goods group based in Switzerland, and Rembrandt, a South African combine. Both are controlled by the South African Rupert family. They will own 35 per cent of the enlarged BAT. However, its voting rights are to be restricted to 25 per cent.

Johann Rupert, Richemont chief executive, said that BAT had offered to pay cash instead of issuing shares. But Richemont and Rembrandt were keen to maintain the fullest exposure to the ongoing business. They also said that they intended to be "long-term, supportive investors".

Mr Rupert said: "The long-term interests of the Rothmans Group are best served by being part of a larger tobacco business which will have enhanced market positions and greater scale of operations."

BAT is already the world's third-largest cigarette seller. The acquisition of Rothmans will take it closer to Philip Morris, however. The state-owned Chinese tobacco company is the world's biggest producer.

Competition issues in various parts of the world means BAT may have to sell off parts of the business. The combined group will have 90 per cent of the South African market, 60 per cent in Australia and 80 per cent in Canada.

The deal will also be inspected by European competition authorities.

Commentary, page 27

Business optimism boosted by MPC rate cuts

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

BUSINESS optimism picked up late last year despite expectations of a sharp economic slowdown in 1999, largely because of the Monetary Policy Committee's willingness to cut interest rates.

The Institute of Directors' latest quarterly survey showed that business optimism improved slightly last month after dramatic falls in confidence in the previous two. Similarly, firms in the financial sector, surveyed by the Confederation of British Industry and PricewaterhouseCoopers, said that they expected a sharp slowdown in business and significant job losses in the first quarter but were less gloomy than they were in September.

Ruth Lea, Head of the Policy Unit at the IoD, attributed this to lower rates and said the institute was confident recession would be avoided in the UK economy. She noted, however, that manufacturing industry is already in recession, a view supported by figures from the Office for National Statistics yesterday. They showed that manufacturing output fell 0.2 per cent in November compared with October, the fourth successive monthly fall.

The economy as a whole may have narrowly escaped a contraction in the final quarter of last year. Based on yesterday's output figures, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research yesterday estimated that growth in the three months to December was a marginal 0.1 per cent.

The British Retail Consortium said retail sales in December had shown no growth from a year ago and sales fell 0.3 per cent on average in the three months to December, the worst performance since the BRC figures started in March 1994.

The ONS said output prices in December were no higher than a year ago, the best performance for 40 years. In addition, incomes data services indicated that wage deals are beginning to fall.

Commentary, page 27

Lukewarm reaction to Enterprise Lasmo deal

BY CARL MORTISHED

INSTITUTIONS have given a lukewarm reception to the news that Enterprise Oil and Lasmo are in merger talks. Pierre Jungels, chief executive of Enterprise, said that shareholders had not responded positively to the news.

Shares of Lasmo gained 12 per cent to 106 1/2p yesterday on speculation that Enterprise would offer a premium to seal a deal. In turn, Enterprise shares lost 9p to 278p. Some analysts said the savings from combining the two companies would be minimal. Instead, the City is hoping that a bid will come from a third party with Agip, Elf and Statoil mentioned alongside smaller US integrated companies.

Mark Iannotti, of Credit Suisse First Boston, said: "I think the chances are high of a cash bidder coming in. There is less than a 50 per cent chance of these companies merging."

Commentary, page 27
Tempus, page 28

Post Office attacked for secrecy Shareholders urge Mirror deal

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Post Office and the Government were attacked for secrecy over the first big overseas postal purchase — thought to be worth up to £375 million.

The Post Office confirmed its purchase of German Parcel, Germany's fourth biggest parcel company, in a deal that was

approved by the Government several weeks ago. The purchase will be funded by Post Office reserves, money borrowed commercially and money borrowed from the Government. Neither the Government nor the Post Office would say what proportion of the cash was coming from where because of commercial sensitivity. John Redwood, Shadow Trade and In-

dustrial Secretary, said: "Why won't they tell us how much it is costing, how much public money is in there and the risk to the taxpayer?"

A spokesman for UPS, the postal and parcel service, said: "We were promised effective regulation. How can we see that operating if the Government doesn't say how much money it is putting into purchases?"

John Roberts, chief executive of the Post Office, said Peter Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, had been told of the German talks in the autumn. Mr Mandelson gave the Post Office greater commercial freedom last month but he would not detail the extent of the freedom.

Commentary, page 27

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

LARGE shareholders of Mirror Group believe merger talks with Trinity, the regional newspaper group, should resume as soon as possible.

Phillips & Drew, the largest Mirror shareholder with 22 per cent, says a deal with Trinity is the best option for the company, publisher of *The Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *The People* and *Scotland's Daily Record*.

P&D yesterday made it clear it would be unhappy if corporate "cultural differences" were to stand in the way of a deal. On Sunday, Trinity said it had withdrawn from talks with immediate effect. The Mirror board issued a statement to staff that said the

rationale for talks with Trinity was based on replicating the integration of Mirror Group and Midland Independent Newspapers on a larger scale. Trinity, the largest UK regional newspaper group, is ready to accept Sir Victor Blank, Mirror Group chairman, as non-executive chairman of the enlarged group but would insist that Philip Graf,

its chief executive, should be chief executive. David Montgomery, Mirror Group chief executive, would stand down once integration of the two companies was complete. Mirror shares rose 4p yesterday to 166p, still well below last year's peak of 248p. Trinity shares fell 1 1/2p to 428 1/2p.

Tempus, page 28

No, no, no!

Yes, yes, yes!

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John Charcol, on European-style mortgage rates.

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We say 'yes' to low European mortgage levels with this remarkable 2-year fixed rate mortgage. There is compulsory buildings insurance — but no penalty that extends beyond 30/4/2001. We believe you'll find this product hard to beat, so cut along to your nearest branch now. The details: 4.99% (5.1% APR) fixed to 30/4/2001. Available for purchases and remortgages to 85% of property value. Redemption penalties: 3% of the loan amount before 30/4/2001 then one month's interest. Maximum loan £200,000. A fee of £540. Call now for your nearest branch.

Based on a £80,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £100,000 repaid over 25 years, 800 gross monthly repayments of £249.50 at 4.99% (5.1% APR). Total charge for credit £75,606.88. Total amount payable gross £135,606.88 calculated to include a lender's arrangement fee of £295, a valuation fee of £205, C&S reservation fee and £146.88 solicitor's fee. The APR is typical for an interest only loan over 25 years and assumes the interest rate will remain at 4.99% (5.1% APR) for the remainder of the loan. In practice this rate may differ from that assumed. After the fixed rate has expired, APR may vary. Total amount payable excludes any redemption fees and buildings insurance premiums. Mortgage secured on property. Insurance may be required. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. Limited funds available. John Charcol operates through branches and franchisees (who are Appointed Representatives) of which you may be unaware. 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Court is cleared in Microsoft hearing

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

SECRET Microsoft pricing data was yesterday presented as evidence of the software company's monopoly power in the historic anti-trust trial.

The court was ordered into closed session when the Justice Department lawyers revealed that they had subpoenaed contracts and wholesale pricing information that shows Microsoft can freely raise the price of Windows, the operating system used on 90 per cent of the world's personal computers.

Microsoft had insisted the court be cleared before the evidence was heard because of its sensitive nature.

According to insiders, government lawyers compared the price at which Dell and Compaq, two companies close to Microsoft, buy Windows with the price paid by IBM and Gateway 2000.

The bulk of Windows sales are directly to manufacturers who are contractually obliged to pay Microsoft a licence fee for every computer sold that is loaded with the operating sys-

tem. A computer without Windows is almost unsaleable in today's market.

The pricing data, the last evidence to be presented by the Justice Department before Microsoft presents its witnesses, could be a vital building block in the anti-trust case.

One of the economic definitions of a monopoly is that the company in question can raise prices without losing market share. The Justice Department has previously declared that relative to other software products Windows' retail price has gone up in recent years. Microsoft replied that it

kept the retail price constant while adding features.

But the different prices offered to manufacturers are seen as clear evidence that Microsoft uses the power of Windows to force companies into alliances that help it to dominate other markets.

The Justice Department argued Dell and Compaq "earned" the lower prices by promoting other Microsoft products. The regulators are trying to prove that Microsoft is acting like a predator and needs to be restrained. Halfway through the trial, observers

said that the Justice Department has presented a convincing case.

The Consumer Federation of America yesterday claimed that Microsoft has overcharged customers worldwide by \$10 billion (\$6 billion) in recent years.

Mark Cooper, the CFA research director, said: "Microsoft is keeping prices high while costs are going down."

Microsoft denied the charges and said it offered consumers a good deal. The cost of an average PC is increased by about \$30 if loaded with Windows. A Windows 98 upgrade costs about \$90 in the shops.

Property group gets funding

Development Securities, the property group, yesterday announced the completion of a package of funding totalling £125 million.

The medium-term debt financing programme includes £75 million from two new five to seven-year revolving bank facilities with HSBC Midland and Barclays. The company will use the additional bank facilities for portfolio acquisitions.

ICI land sale

ICI Estates has completed the sale of four landholdings to Redrow Group, the housebuilder and commercial developer. The deal has realised £14.5 million in cash with additional payments of up to another £20 million dependent on planning consents. The sites include an area to the east of the M49 at Severnside and land in Harrogate that is the subject of proposals for retail development.

Dairy Crest buy

Dairy Crest Group, the dairy food company, has bought Longs Dairies for £4 million in cash. The company said that Longs, which is based in Great Yarmouth, would strengthen its position as the leading supplier of milk to doorstep and retail customers in East Anglia. Longs Dairies had a turnover last year of £10.8 million.

Denmans ahead

Denmans Electrical, a supplier of lighting products, reported pre-tax profits up 17 per cent to £4.03 million for the year ended September 30. Earnings per share were 15.12p, from 13.66p last time. The recommended final dividend of 2.5p makes a total of 3.25p, an increase of 8 per cent.

Clubhaus deal

Clubhaus, a European golf course owner-operator, has bought Tooting Golf Course in Munich, Germany, for DM6.0 million (£2.2 million). It brings its total number of golf facilities to 19, four of which are in Germany.

Hacas advances

Hacas, the property consultancy, yesterday announced a pre-tax profit of £640,407 for the year ended September 30, up from £511,000 last year. The results are the company's first since it reversed into AIM-listed General Industries in July 1998. No dividend was offered.

French launch £680m bid for English China Clays

BY CARL MORTISHED
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
EDITOR

IMETAL, the French conglomerate, swooped on English China Clays yesterday, with a £680 million cash offer for the industrial minerals company.

The French bidder is attempting to bypass the ECC management with its 225p per share offer after it failed to get a decision from the ECC board after a meeting last week.

ECC quickly rejected the offer yesterday, saying it "falls by a wide margin to reflect the value of the company's busi-

ness and prospects". Denis Rediker, chief executive, said the company needed time to evaluate the offer. "They attempted to hold a gun to our heads and demanded a response in 48 hours."

News of the bid caused ECC's last-minute shares to spring into action, rising 51 per cent to 242p. Shares in the British company, which processes minerals used in the paper and water treatment industries, have suffered from pricing pressure in kaolin and an expensive diversification into chemicals.

Analysts said that the share price was reflecting the expect-

ation that Imetal would have to pay more to secure a board recommendation. However, a rival bid is thought unlikely and Imetal might have trouble increasing its cash bid which will send its gearing ratio to 120 per cent.

Imetal is quoted in Paris and controlled jointly by Paul Desmarais, chairman of Canada's Power Corporation, and Frere Group, the Belgian company that controls the interests of Baron Albert Frere. Imetal has a kaolin business but is also involved in metal processing and building materials.

Patrick Kron, Imetal's chief

executive, lost no time in pouring scorn on ECC's record. He pointed to a 40 per cent negative shareholder return from ECC since January 1995, a period in which the return from the All-share index had doubled in value.

M Kron said that ECC had missed opportunities in its core white pigments business by failing to acquire a stake in the new Brazilian reserves and had failed to exploit its technology in precipitate calcium carbonate. He said: "They have boxed themselves into a corner."

Mr Rediker responded: "If there is a box, it would seem

they are standing next to us in the corner."

The kaolin price has been under pressure for the past two years as vast new reserves in Brazil came on stream. It has also been affected by the substitution of calcium carbonate for kaolin by papermakers. Imetal has an interest in the Brazilian kaolin reserves.

M Kron criticised ECC for its acquisition of Calgon. "We don't see the impact of synergies," he said. ECC had failed to participate in the industry consolidation in specialty chemicals.

Tempos, page 28



SHARES of Triad, the information technology group, fell 40p to 527½p yesterday on worries over the nature of its trading. Triad, whose chief executive is Mira Makar, above, lifted pre-tax profits to £3.8 million for the six months ended September 30, up from £2.9 million last time. Earnings per share were 10.3p (7.5p) and an interim dividend of 3p was offered (2p).

DTI calls for role in EdF's electricity bid

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE Government is urging the European Commission to let UK competition authorities vet the £1.9 billion takeover bid for London Electricity by Electricité de France.

The Department of Trade and Industry said its request relates to concerns it has in relation to the merger, which was announced on December 4.

If the takeover is allowed it will return London to state control as EdF is owned by the French Government. EdF effectively controls the intercon-

tor, which transports power between Britain and France, because its cheap exports ensure effective one-way traffic.

The UK Government is likely to press for contracts to be renegotiated to boost the British power market.

The DTI wants the bid to be considered under the UK's Fair Trading Act. European rules apply when two member countries are involved in cross-border deals but the EU has allowed the UK to impose conditions in water industry bids.

UK resumes aviation talks with America

BY OUR CITY STAFF

BRITAIN and the US are to make another attempt at liberalising their aviation market, with the resumption of trade talks next month. It was announced yesterday.

The first talks in 20 months were held in London last October, only to break up over US complaints of British intransigence, and delay further the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines.

The main issue still centres on how to gain access to the congested runways of Heathrow,

which ranks as Europe's most lucrative landfill for transatlantic carriers because of its business traffic.

Under the Bermuda II aviation agreement, only four airlines can operate transatlantic services out of Heathrow — BA, American Airlines, Virgin Atlantic and United Airlines.

The US says it needs an "open skies" trade agreement with Britain before the BA-American alliance can be approved. Britain says approval is an essential ingredient to an open skies deal.

Courtaulds issues profits warning

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

COURTAULDS TEXTILES, one of Marks & Spencer's large suppliers, yesterday became the latest in a string of manufacturers to issue a profit warning, blaming weak demand from its UK customers.

The shares fell 13p to 160p as the company vowed to increase its production in countries with cheaper labour and infrastructure costs as part of its effort to resume profit growth.

The company, which bought Claremont Garments — another of Marks & Spencer's largest clothing suppliers — in October for £10 million, said pre-tax profits would be £36 million, about £2.5 million below City forecasts.

Courtaulds Textiles said that the international side of its business had generally performed well and helped to offset the weak UK autumn/winter sales. The French tights and lingerie businesses enjoyed good trade, but demand for European lace was "fragile", it said. Sales of stretch fabrics to Asia and the US were good.

Despite the difficult UK market, the company said it had ended the autumn/winter season with its stocks in line with targets. It also said that it was starting 1999 with full production schedules.

The company, which is announcing its preliminary results on March 11, said that the restructuring of Claremont, where 1,125 staff have been made redundant, should "quickly restore profitability".

Volvo confirms talks with Fiat

VOLVO yesterday confirmed that it was in talks with Fiat after Giovanni Agnelli, chairman of the Italian carmaker, admitted that discussions had taken place between the two companies. Volvo shares plunged, however, slipping 5 per cent as the Swedish company insisted that the companies were not close to a deal.

Volvo is under pressure to find a partner among the larger manufacturers to reduce the cost of launching new models. Analysts have speculated that Ford would be a better big brother than Fiat as the former makes large cars and could share engines and drive systems. It would also give Volvo better access to the US market where it has less than one per cent of car sales. Other industry experts say Fiat and Volvo would complement each other, much as would have been the case if the once-planned alliance with Renault had been realised. The Renault-Volvo plan collapsed in 1993.

New chief at Nissan UK

NISSAN UK, whose Sunderland plant is Europe's most productive car manufacturer, has appointed a new managing director. John Cushnaghan has been promoted from deputy managing director at Sunderland. The running of Sunderland has been relinquished by Sir Ian Gibson, who is overseeing Nissan's European strategy. Sir Ian, who was knighted in this New Year Honours for services to the car manufacturing industry, had been doing several jobs for some time. He has also ceased to run Nissan's plant in Barcelona.

Lewis raises funds

HENRY LEWIS, founder and chairman of Action Computer Services, has raised £200,000 by selling almost half of his stake in Electronics Boutique. Mr Lewis, a non-executive director of the computer games retailer, said the disposal was for "personal and family reasons". He retains a £280,000 stake in Electronics Boutique, which returned an upbeat trading statement last week. Mr Lewis holds an 8.8 per cent stake in Action Computer Services, worth £6.1 million. He also sits on the board of Oasis, the fashion retailer.

E*Trade Group loss

E*TRADE GROUP, the American online discount broker, reported a 63 per cent rise in revenues in the first quarter as it added 132,000 customer accounts. The company also reported a net loss of \$13.2 million (£8 million) for the quarter, below Wall Street forecasts. The company, which reported a net profit of \$3.1 million in the first quarter of the previous year, said active customer accounts increased 55 per cent during the fourth quarter, to 676,000 as of the end of December.

Field in takeover talks

SHARES of Field Group rose 55p to 281½p after the specialist packaging business said it was in talks that could lead to a takeover bid being made. Field is valued at about £70 million at yesterday's closing price. The company's shares have fallen over the past 12 months in reaction to a decline in first-half profits and a warning on trading. Field's main attraction is its strength in European pharmaceuticals; however, its exposure to drinks and tobacco was blamed for the decline in profits.

Zochonis warning

PATERSON ZOCHONIS, a household products manufacturer, said that it expects profits for the year to May 31, 1999, will be significantly down on the pre-tax figure of £32.7 million it reported last year. The company blamed adverse economic and trading conditions in China, Eastern Europe and Nigeria. Exceptional provisions of £6.3 million will be made. Zochonis said it expects an unchanged interim dividend, due February 16, of 5.85p a share for the six months to November 30, 1998.

Inn Business expands

INN BUSINESS, the pub group, is to boost its 470-strong tenant estate by acquiring Scorpio Inns, which operates 111 tenancies in the West of England and Wales. The company yesterday paid £300,000 for a 23.2 per cent stake in Scorpio and has an option to buy out the remainder before July next year for a maximum of £2.75 million plus working capital. If Scorpio fails to meet targets its shareholders will buy back the stake at par. Inn Business is also to dispose of its nine remaining unbranded managed houses.

Central bankers meet

ALAN GREENSPAN, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, told central bankers' meeting in Hong Kong that there were prospects for an easing in American economic growth. The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said yesterday. Andrew Crockett, general manager of BIS, said Mr Greenspan told the 17 central bankers that growth would ease but would be satisfactory. Mr Crockett said central bankers at the meeting believed the global economic environment was "reasonably positive".

Meridien for Taiwan

GRANADA'S Meridien-Hotels chain will enter the Taiwanese market this week by taking over the Gloria Hotel in Taipei under a management contract. The four-star, 226-room hotel, owned by Tien-Kuei Chen, a local businessman, will undergo a \$3 million-plus (£2.1 million) refurbishment. Le Meridien Gloria Taipei, as it will be rebranded, will be the chain's 104th hotel. Bernard Lambert, managing director, said: "It moves us closer to our target of 200 Meridien hotels in the next five years."

Capital hit as oil price keeps high-rollers away

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in Capital Corporation lost more than 10 per cent of their value yesterday as the London casino operator gave warning that the oil price fall was keeping Middle Eastern punters away.

Its shares shed 7p to 59½p as it forecast that 1998 operating profits would be just £8 million compared with £17.6 million the year before. Analysts are predicting that interest charges will restrict profits at the pre-tax level to just £5.5 million.

The scarcity of Middle East-

ern punters is a blow given that Capital was already suffering from a lack of Asian high-rollers, who have been hit by the region's economic crisis. In a trading statement, it said: "The London gaming market remains depressed, with the level of high-roller play substantially reduced."

Hopes of a takeover are also fading. It is more than four months since Capital admitted that it had received a number of approaches, but yesterday it said: "These talks have not yet led to formal or indicative of-

fers at a level that the board could recommend and it remains unclear whether such offers will be forthcoming."

Capital, which runs Crocford, the Colony Club and the Cromwell Mint, has also been hit by last year's punitive rise in gaming duty which has added £2.5 million to its annual tax bill. However, it said the resilience of its business at the middle and lower end of the market allied to tighter cost controls had left it "well placed to take advantage of any upturn in high-roller activity".

Airbus silent on shake-up as record sales achieved

BY ADAM JONES

AIRBUS Industrie reported record sales figures yesterday but remained tight-lipped about a massive restructuring currently being discussed by its four partners.

Airbus, owned by Aerospatiale of France, Dasa of Germany, British Aerospace and Casa of Spain, took firm orders for 556 planes worth \$39 billion (£24 billion) in 1998 — a year that may prove to be a peak in the aerospace industry cycle.

Airbus, which had previously had only 460 orders in its best year, claimed that it had

cornered 45 per cent of the market for planes with more than 100 seats. Market share figures are a traditional bone of contention between Airbus and Boeing, its US rival.

Boeing objects to the Airbus practice of counting market share by the number of orders rather than their value. The latter would favour the bigger planes sold by Boeing, although Airbus is developing larger aircraft that will redress the balance.

An Airbus spokesman refused to specify when the

planemaker's transformation into a more conventional company is expected to take place, beyond saying it would happen this year. Airbus, as a consortium, does not publish overall accounts.

The Asian economic crisis led to the cancellation of 14 orders for single-aisle aircraft. All were reallocated to other airlines and Airbus says the market potential in Asia is still attractive. The spokesman would not say if Airbus expected global orders to drop this year.

Australia	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
2.98	2.48	194.62	177.09	
20.81	18.95	0.981	0.802	
30.87	28.71	3.352	3.037	
2.955	2.407	5.14	2.50	
0.6711	0.7098	12.79	11.95	
11.20	10.31	27.29	27.29	
5.78	5.35	10.42	9.46	
9.02	8.27	248.57	225.78	
9.42	9.04	13.92	12.52	
2.949	2.707	2.450	2.253	
13.54	12.34	542293	590238	
127	107	1.147	1.120	
1.1770	1.0680			
7.00	6.34			
2934	2897			

Swiss kick off £20m CPG bid

BY CHRIS AVRES

THE Swiss company that controls the marketing rights to football's World Cup yesterday launched a £20 million takeover bid for Britain's Copyright Promotions Group (CPG), which represents the rights to film and television creations such as *Star Wars* and *The Simpsons*.

ISMM's 130p-a-share cash bid — which has been recommended by CPG's board — values CPG at a 21 per cent premium to its closing share price on Friday. Shares in the company rose 20p yesterday to 127½p.

If the deal goes ahead, it will create one of the largest sports and entertainment licensing companies in the world. ISMM specialises in exploiting the rights to sporting competitions; while CPG's speciality is film and television. The board of CPG are expected to stay with the merged company.

As well as controlling the rights to the World Cup until 2006, ISMM represents the rights to the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

David Cardwell, CPG's chief executive, said: "We are delighted at the prospect of joining forces with ISMM. In pooling our extensive resources, we believe that CPG and ISMM in tandem will represent a leading independent sports licensing operation, with expertise and a significant presence in key world markets."

CPG yesterday reported a sevenfold rise in pre-tax profits to £427,000 for the six months to October 31, and an 18 per cent rise in sales to £10.7 million. Earnings per share rose threefold to 1.81p. No dividend will be paid.

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A happy Rupert goes into BAT



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Johann Rupert happily lit up a cigarette to celebrate the announcement of his deal with BAT yesterday. Whatever the weed may be doing to his health, it has been the makings of the Rupert family fortunes and he clearly believes it can continue to be so. Far from stubbing out their interest in the tobacco business, the Ruperts will be holding on to a 35 per cent interest in the enlarged company.

The stock market shares their assessment of the opportunities for the combined businesses, sending BAT shares skywards as the deal was announced. Its emergence as a neat *accomplish* it was in sharp, and impressive, contrast to the leaked news that Enterprise Oil and Lloyds were trying to effect a takeover, an announcement which will presage a period of increased uncertainty for both companies. But the BAT deal has the benefit of being made from a position of relative strength.

Martin Broughton is not messing around trying to concoct an artificial merger for appearance sake. BAT is taking over Rothmans International, and rather than duck and dive to try to avoid the worst attacks of acquisition accounting, it is taking them on the chin. The BAT board suspects that investors will be grown up enough to shrug off the apparent horror of having to amortise goodwill estimated at an astronomical £5 billion and instead will look at the earnings

benefits to come from the deal. So confident was the company that this deal was the right one to do that it did not bother with the increasingly common pre-market round of major shareholders, aimed at softening them up for the excitement to come.

Investors have reason to trust Mr Broughton's judgment. Rarely has a demerger increased shareholder value as rapidly as the splitting of BAT into its two component parts. Tobacco might be rather less fashionable than financial services but Mr Broughton was bravely determined to blow the smoke away and have a business clearly focused on Sir Walter Raleigh's legacy. He knows that while the West may be cutting back on cigarettes, the world is a big place. Even in these difficult economic times, cigarettes are winning new addicts in the far-flung spots that BAT supplies. With the Rothmans brands, BAT will be able to hold on to these customers as they trade up and puff on higher-margin products.

Mr Rupert might not have been so keen to hitch his fortunes to BAT this time last year but the major settlement in the drawn-out US litigation has altered the

picture drastically. A charge of about \$750 million is nasty but containable.

There will be regulatory hurdles ahead but they are not insurmountable: the over-powering presence of Philip Morris provides a useful counter to most accusations of BAT having too great a market share. Deputy chairman, Kenneth Clarke, should be confident enough to enjoy a celebratory puff on a cigar.

Corzine takes the rap at Goldman

Seeing the prospect of huge windfall gains being snatched away from under their noses tends not to bring out the best in people, even millionaire investment bankers. So it was that some of the heavily remunerated partners of Goldman Sachs were not in the best of humours last autumn when the planned flotation of the firm was

aborted. There were suggestions that unkind things were being said behind the back of chief executive Jon Corzine about his unseemly handling of the affair.

The demeanour of those who had seen their paper wealth soar as high as \$50 million but then sink back into a potential never land was hardly improved when the market sludder which had scared Goldman into dropping the float was rapidly reversed. Where might Goldman's share rating be now had it only been brave enough to push ahead with its plans?

Goldman's own investment guru, Abby Cohen, had been unflinchingly bullish about the market. She has now been rewarded with a partnership but, had the firm had more faith in her forecasting, her fellow partners might be enjoying the benefits now, with Wall Street teetering at record levels.

The apparent bungling of its own flotation is damaging for

any business but particularly so for an investment bank. Never mind what the clients think, the jibes from competitors do get you down.

And if there was ever any doubt that Mr Corzine was being blamed, then yesterday's news should have dispelled it. For he is now giving up his chief executive role to concentrate "on issues pertaining to creating a successful public offering".

Few would envy him the task, although the rewards of success would clearly be great. But even if he succeeds in bringing Goldman to market before Wall Street comes to its senses, he cannot restore all the glamour which, rightly or wrongly, rubbed off the firm last autumn. The early valuations of around \$30 billion may have been unsustainable but now the figure is seen as closer to \$20 billion and that blows down to a significant loss for every Goldman partner.

With Mr Corzine consigned to

purgatory, John Thornton is the man in the ascendant. He had never favoured flotation, which would inevitably change the unique nature of the bank. For that judgment, his partners are clearly prepared to forgive him the little matter of his chairmanship of Laura Ashley.

Lips sealed with DTI fudge

So much for government accountability. The Post Office bought a German business yesterday using taxpayers' money. We don't know how much because neither the organisation nor the Department of Trade and Industry will say. But they gleefully boast that they will be doing this again as the Post Office embarks on an international spending spree.

The secrecy with which public money is being spent is the first demonstration of the fudge that is government policy on the Post Office's future. Peter Mandelson, then Trade and Industry Secretary, doomed the Post Office to muddle last month when he said it should have greater commercial freedom but be kept in public

ownership. We have no idea of the spending limits that the Post Office will be bound by, despite it having executed its first deal.

Government money for commercial enterprise is not new: the DTI gives launch aid for developments — such as Rolls-Royce's new engine family — at competitive rates and in long-term arrangements which would not be available from a bank. But the secrecy is new — launch aid is put in the public domain, as it should be.

The veil over the Post Office's international aspirations is compounded by the fact that we are not even to know how much the whole deal costs, let alone the taxpayers' contribution.

And this from a Government that has pledged transparent regulation of the Post Office.

Uncomfortable Reid

SIR Bob Reid and his team at Sears are struggling to conclude details of the sale of the group's credit card business so that there will be some good news to alleviate the bad in tomorrow's trading statement. The real gloom is likely to be in the figures from Freemans, the catalogue retailing business which Sir Bob was prevented from off-loading to Lillieswoods. The energetic Philip Green is still waiting in the wings to pounce on Sears and Sir Bob will need some imaginative ammunition to keep him at bay.

Forecasts are sliced as Tomkins edges ahead

By PAUL DURMAN

TOMKINS, the conglomerate with products ranging from car transmission belts to Hovis bread, has encountered "progressively more challenging" trading, prompting analysts to slice into their forecasts.

The shares, which have fallen from 340p last summer, slipped another 13p to 228p. Andrew Hollins, analyst at Dresner Kleinwort Benson, has reduced his full-year profit forecast from £520 million to £490 million. "This could be the first year that won't increase profits," he said. "There are not many bits of the business that are going to be better second half than first."

First-half pre-tax profits came in at £220.1 million, a rise of only 2.4 per cent. However, even this improvement is after setting aside the £40 million provision for the loss that Tomkins will make on Spillers flour mills that the Department of Trade and Industry has forced it to sell.

The group's industrial and automotive engineering division, centred on Gates, has seen sales to agricultural, heavy construction and other industrial customers "fall away".

Operating profits, which



Slow progress: Greg Hutchings could see Tomkins full-year profits stand still or even decline

rose 8.8 per cent to £77.8 million, were also held back by losses in automotive hose manufacturing in Europe and by depressed demand in Asia.

The food division improved profits by 14.4 per cent to £71.4 million, helped by strong growth in sales to McDonald's and by the recent "excellent" acquisitions of Le Pain Croustillant and Martine Spécialités, which make frozen part-baked bread. But analysts worry that the division will struggle to maintain profit margins at 7.4 per cent if con-

sumers "trade down" to cheaper bread because of recession. Construction components increased profits 5 per cent to £64.9 million on reduced turnover. US sales are growing, but the UK and South African businesses face rough conditions.

Smith & Wesson, the handgun firm that earned Tomkins its "buns to guns" tag, looks increasingly likely to be sold after suffering a "significant decline" in sales and profitability. Tomkins is reviewing the future of its professional, garden and leisure products divi-

sion, which represents only 3 per cent of group sales. Greg Hutchings, chairman, said the company will announce its decision in July.

Mr Hutchings said Tomkins regularly reviews the possibility of moving to the US to try to improve the rating of its out-of-favour shares, but such a move was "not yet" suitable.

Tomkins has £500 million or so for add-on acquisitions. The interim dividend rises 14.3 per cent to 4p a share.

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SEC fines Wall Street firms \$26m

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE Securities & Exchange Commission fined 28 Wall Street firms more than \$26 million (almost £16 million) and suspended 51 traders, bringing an end to a five-year-old legal battle.

The deal with the brokerage houses closes the Government's charges that the firms duped customers by, among other things, failing to provide the best prices for stocks traded on the Nasdaq market and failing to honour posted stock quotes.

The SEC found that the firms, through their market-makers, intentionally delayed trade reports and failed to honour quoted prices.

Hardest hit by the SEC was PaineWebber, the retail brokerage. It was ordered to pay \$6.7 million in civil penalties and any illegal profits.

Pace moves into the black after year of turmoil

By Chris Ayres

PACE Micro Technology, the manufacturer of set-top boxes for digital television broadcasters, yesterday said it had moved back into the black during the six months to November 28 after more than a year of turmoil.

The company, which yesterday admitted that its future prospects were almost entirely dependent on the successful launch of digital television services throughout the world, reported profits of £8.3 million, compared with losses of £12.3 million.

Sales rose to nearly £100 million, up from £87 million, and earnings per share climbed to 2.6p, compared with losses of 5.8p.

However, Pace added that sales had been hit by economic turmoil in South America

and the Far East, and that it could be "difficult to sustain" its improved 26 per cent margins. Shares in the company fell 2p to 91.5p, compared with a low of 25.5p last year and a high of 241.5p after its flotation in 1996.

Pace manufactures set-top boxes for Britain's first two digital television services, Sky Digital (run by BSkyB) and ONdigital (run by Carlton and Granada). BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

The company also provides the technology for integrated digital television sets and plans to build high-speed cable modems into some of its future products.

Pace said that an interim dividend of 0.25p would be paid on April 9.

ICG helps Regal to buy rival

By DOMINIC WALSH

REGAL Hotel Group has joined forces with Intermediate Capital Group (ICG), the mezzanine finance specialist, to acquire County Hotels in a deal valuing its rival at £115.5 million.

A new 50-50 joint venture company set up by Regal and ICG is paying £42.5 million in cash for the 25-strong chain and assuming £73 million of debt. Regal is to lend £30 million to the joint venture and will manage County's properties in return for 20 per cent of operating profits.

The three-star chain is being sold by Duke Street Capital, the venture capitalist that led its £91 million buy-out from Queens Moat Houses in 1997. Regal already operates five hotels in a joint venture with ICG.

Warning as RCO advances

RCO Holdings, the support services group, yesterday called 1998 a "watershed year" but gave warning that employment legislation and economic downturn would "create a degree of uncertainty in the rate of growth and margin improvement".

The company has now established itself in the NHS Private Finance Initiative market with the signing of the Calderdale contract to develop Halifax General Hospital.

The group showed a pre-tax profit of £1.8 million for the year to October 2, against a profit of £1.2 million for the 53-week period in 1997, on a turnover of £57.6 million (£55.6 million). Earnings were 11.64p a share (7.73p) and a final dividend of 6p brings the year's total to 10p (6p).

Logica bank deal Logica, the computer consultancy, will today announce a £4 million contract with Barclays Bank to provide systems support for its PC online banking services. Logica will provide services including production, test and development as well as operation of the live system and help-desk services. It has also secured a £2.9 million contract to Radio Mobil, a Czech mobile phone company.

BAA shares dip Shares of BAA fell 4p to 714p yesterday even though the privatised airport operator confirmed it is considering demerging its Lyon property subsidiary. If the proposal is approved, BAA will list it on the stock market as a company worth more than £500 million.

Fyffes unveils £400m acquisition war chest

By FRASER NELSON

FYFFES has revealed it has a £400 million war chest that it intends to use purchasing smaller rivals across Europe and to complete a large acquisition by the end of the year.

The fruit and vegetable importer, which distributes one in every five bananas sold in the UK, said it intends to com-

mand similar market shares in potatoes and other fruit.

Carl McCann, deputy chairman, whose brother, David, is chief executive, said the company had no debt and £43 million sitting in the bank.

He said: "Deal, deal, deal — that's the idea. We'd like to do more deals and the bigger the

better. The cash is there and with interest rates going down, the return is no good unless you can turn it into deals."

Last month, Fyffes agreed to acquire a 50 per cent stake in rival Capespan International for £51 million and a 10 per cent stake in its parent company which markets the Cape and Ouspian labels.

Based in the Republic of Ireland, Fyffes returned its results in euros — becoming the first London-listed company to do so. Its pre-tax profits rose by an expected 15 per cent to £8.9 million (£5.7 million) for the year to October 31. Earnings rose 21 per cent to 16.2 cents per share.

It is again taking advantage of Irish tax breaks on dividends to lift the payout 25 per cent to 2.71 cents per share, making a total of 3.58 cents, up from 2.90 cents.

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David McCann, left with Frank Gernion, finance director

Mild weather prompts warning from Kwik-Fit

By FRASER NELSON

KWIK-FIT has issued its first profits warning for six years, blaming a mild winter for allowing motorists to survive December without needing new tyres or car batteries.

The company, Britain's largest service station network with 850 outlets, said its winter "seasonal uplift" had not appeared — "perhaps due to weather".

The shares lost 14 per cent of their value yesterday, as brokers prepared for the down-

turn to continue into January and February.

Graeme Bisset, who became finance director three months ago, said that much of the lost business should be recaptured later in the year.

He said: "Bad weather normally focuses people's minds to replace tyres and batteries sooner rather than later. But we are not a discretionary purchase, so we have some degree of resilience."

The ten months before December had been strong, he said, with an overall increase in the number of cars serviced. However, the three winter months are usually the most lucrative.

Analysts who were expecting a pre-tax profit of £52 million for the year to February 28 are now forecasting £57 million.

The shares closed 73p down at 462p — their sharpest one-day fall since Kwik-Fit's last profits warning in 1992.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

City sets its sights on the next takeover targets

SPOTTING the next takeover target ripe for plucking has become the latest game in the Square Mile — and there are no shortage of likely candidates among second-liners.

Take Thistle Hotels. Last year the group received a bid approach when the shares were trading above the 200p level. The market anticipated an offer worth 250p a share, but the talks broke down. The price closed last night unchanged at 177 1/2p. The company remains vulnerable.

First Leisure also stood out with a jump of 30 1/2p to 232p amid vague talk of a bid from Luminar. However, the rise in the Luminar share price, 22 1/2p to 680p, suggests that the market believes any such bid will come from other sources, possibly a venture capitalist, or even Bass, up 11 1/2p to 87 1/2p.

Sears, the troubled high street retailer, surged 3 1/2p to 289p in the belief that Philip Green had finally raised the finance to launch an offer worth 300p a share. Other claimants may tempt shareholders to remain loyal by offering a payout of 130p a share.

Cordiant, the advertising agency demerged from Saatchi & Saatchi last year, surged 23 1/2p to a high of 146p amid suggestions that a bid may be on the way from US rival True North Communications.

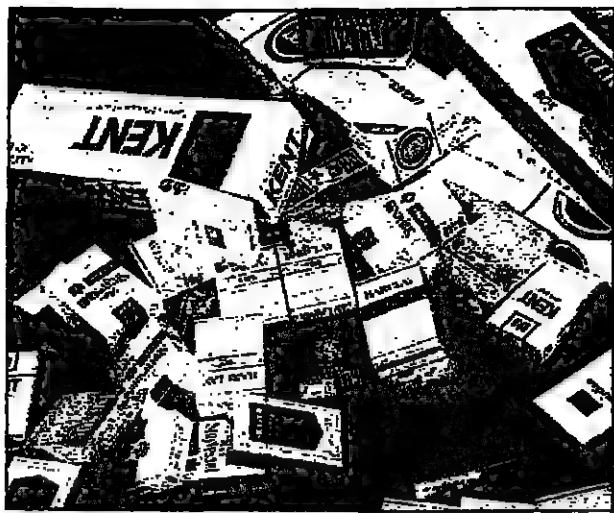
Grey Communications, the US advertising group, is said to be preparing a bid for Saatchi & Saatchi, up 8p to 130 1/2p. Grey has long been interested in buying another advertising network and was an underbidder when GGT Group bought BDDP 18 months ago.

Charter has slumped from nearly 800p in the past year. It rallied 13p to 350p yesterday with traders talking of a bid approach soon.

Shares of Resam, the former Bowater paper company, has seen its shares slump from 307 1/2p reflecting the downturn in the paper industry worldwide. It makes the company vulnerable to takeover. The price rose 6p to 188p on turnover of 3 million shares.

An early mark-up on the back of the latest flurry of corporate activity soon gave way to profit taking. Share prices in both London and New York were on the slide as investors chose to consolidate profits.

The FTSE 100 index came within a whisker of its record



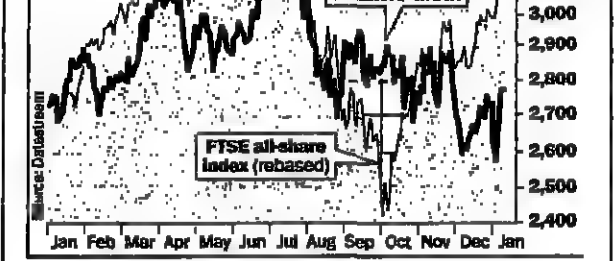
The union of Rothmans and British American Tobacco, up 84p to 625p, would create the world's third-largest tobacco maker

high of 6,195.6, achieved last week, before moving into reverse. Down 84 points, at one stage, it closed 622 down at 6,085.0. Total turnover was 898 million shares.

The proposed £13 billion merger between British American Tobacco, up 84p to 625p, and Rothmans, led to hopes that bidders may emerge for Imperial Tobacco, up 7p to

640p. The enlarged tobacco producer would be number three in the world after Philip Morris and that could spell trouble for both Imps and Galaher, down 3p to 405 1/2p.

A wave of speculative buying chased Sinclair Health-care 23p to 136 1/2p before the company announced it had received a number of approaches that could lead to a bid.



A FEW crumbs of comfort were offered to investors by the food retailers.

William Morrison Supermarkets, up 10 1/2p to 307 1/2p, has reported that sales in the five weeks to January 3, were up 14.5 per cent on the previous year.

Excluding five new stores and five acquisitions, sales during the Christmas period were up 5.3 per cent with like-for-like sales in the 43 weeks to date up 3 per cent. This sales rundown will provide some cheer for brokers who have been fretting

about a sales slowdown over Christmas and the New Year.

The news from Morrison also coincided with an upbeat report on the sector from Credit Lyonnais, the broker, which has moved to "overweight".

It has raised Safeway, 1 1/2p to 283 1/2p, and All-day, steady at 184 1/2p, from "add" to "buy".

Asda, down 3 1/2p to 160p, is moved from "reduce" to "add" along with William Morrison and Somerfield, 8p cheaper at 450 1/2p.

BUFA has been leading the way forward in a consolidation of the healthcare market.

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries repeated 20p to 490p after rejecting the Pac-Man bid from Marston. Thompson & Evered, off 5p to 297 1/2p, Wolves's own bid of £262 million for Marston's remains on the table.

Arcadia continued to bounce along the bottom with a fall of 8p to 147 1/2p in the wake of a profits warning before Christmas. Now there are fears that trading continued to decline over the festive period.

One-Line saw its shares virtually double from 16 1/2p to 29 1/2p, but the directors cannot say why. They know of no reason for such a rise. But that did not stop David Crump, a director, buying 2,500 shares at 25p.

It was the first day of trading over an Oxfes for EasyScreen, which provides dealing systems for the futures and option markets. The price opened at 166p after a placing of six million shares before closing at 210p, its best of the day, a premium of 43p.

Keep an eye on Cortec, up 5p to 18 1/2p, which saw its shares slump from 19 1/2p after a boardroom bust up last year. World is Nomura, the Japanese securities house, last week picked up a line of three million shares, or 2 per cent, over the market. It may be looking to build up a 10 per cent stake in the company.

Support in a narrow market also boosted Altech 6 1/2p to 29 1/2p. Trading is said to have picked up after a poor first half and world is the company, which supplies components to the mobile phone industry, may soon be tempted to restate an upbeat statement.

GILT EDGED: Bond prices suffered a sell-off during afternoon trading as they followed the US market lower. The biggest falls were seen among longer-dated issues where losses stretched to almost £1.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 40p to £119.24 as £22,000 contracts were completed. In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell 89p to £150.61, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 2p off at £107.91.

NEW YORK: Blue chips sagged amid worries about the dollar. At midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was down 69.25 points to 9,574.07.

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9574.07 (-69.25)
S&P Composite	1261.40 (-13.68)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	13368.46 (-23.33)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10634.27 (-88.45)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	545.77 (-13.50)
Sydney:	
ASX	2845.41 (-6.9)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5270.80 (-22.24)
Singapore:	
Sensex	1543.08 (-2.10)
Brussels:	
EBEX	3540.30 (-33.88)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4281.50 (-43.59)
Zurich:	
SIX	1504.40 (-35.80)
London:	
FT 30	3841.2 (-21.9)
FTSE 100	6085.0 (-82.2)
FTSE 250	4282.0 (-14.4)
FTSE 350	2894.3 (-24.4)
FTSE Europe 100	2892.92 (-46.10)
FTSE All-Share	2762.73 (-21.8)
FTSE Non-Financials	2813.21 (-17.1)
FTSE Financials	157.42 (-4.1)
FTSE Govt Secs	115.90 (-4.0)
Bargain	76423
SEAD Volume	1,540,000,000
WSE	0.7084 (-0.0006)
Exchange Index	28.0 (-0.2)
ESX on England official close (4pm)	1.1715
RP1	164.4 Nov (3.8%) Jan 1997-100
RP2	162.0 Nov (2.5%) Jan 1997-100

AIM VCT:	
Abbey Nat Dublin Inv	100
BFS Overseas Inc & Benth Cap	92 1/2
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Charmel	121 1/2
Collective Assets Trust	117
Financial Objects	277
First Active	348 1/2
Five Aves US Cy Ltd 2010	120
Marley B	105
Nat'l Bldg Mkt Inv	105
Nat'l Bldg Mkt Inv	105
Piccadilly Growth Tr	97
REXAM B (100)	96
Singer & Fnd AM VCT	100
Williamson	77 1/2
Yomama Investments	15
Yomama Equity Units	95 1/2
Yomama II Inv Trst Cap	90 1/2
Yomama II Zarg Div Pl	112 1/2

ECC:	
ENAP nfp (875)	215
Recognition Systems nfp (8)	3
SKO Media nfp (15)	3 1/2

RISSES:	
Stock	Close
China Cl	242 1/2
Dow Jones	25
S&P 500	23
Charmel	23
Collective Assets	23
Financial Objects	23
First Active	23
Five Aves US Cy Ltd 2010	23
Marley B	23
Nat'l Bldg Mkt Inv	23
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Singer & Fnd AM VCT	23
Williamson	23
Yomama Investments	23
Yomama Equity Units	23
Yomama II Inv Trst Cap	23
Yomama II Zarg Div Pl	23

FALLS:	
Stock	Close
China Cl	242 1/2
Dow Jones	25
S&P 500	23
Charmel	23
Collective Assets	23
Financial Objects	23
First Active	23
Five Aves US Cy Ltd 2010	23
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Nat'l Bldg Mkt Inv	23
Nat'l Bldg Mkt Inv	23
Piccadilly Growth Tr	23
REXAM B (100)	23
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Take a look at the Mirror

WITH confusing leaks and spin-doctoring that would not disgrace New Labour, it would be easy for investors to throw up their hands in horror and wonder whether the question marks hanging over the future of Mirror Group will ever be resolved.

Beneath the claim and counter-claim lies a bare truth that Trinity and Mirror Group need each other. Both need to be larger and benefit from economies of scale in a media world increasingly dominated by large, international players. The strategic fit cannot be faulted and the two could create a group of national and regional newspapers, magazines and exhibitions that could at least aspire one day to look a bit like Associated Newspapers.

David Montgomery, the Mirror chief executive, has never received full credit for the way he modernised the business and extended its

reach beyond national newspapers. But the sentiment running against Mr Montgomery is such that he is unlikely ever to get the recognition he deserves, and until he moves on, Mirror shares are likely to meander.

Moreover, Mirror shareholders (including Phillips & Drew with 22 per cent) want the deal to be done. They have had enough of the share price underperformance and are eager to see value unlocked. It is difficult to see Mirror shares reaching the 248p scaled after last year's Springer expressed acquisition interest last year. But there is a good chance of growth from 166p yesterday.

It is time for the posturing to stop and for Trinity and Mirror to complete this deal. The logic demands that it is done. Such is the momentum, in fact, that these shares could be bought for a quick turn.

ECC

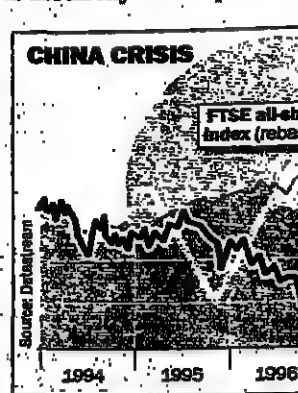
ANDREW TEARE is yet to be replaced at REAR, the entertainment group from which he was unceremoniously ejected last November. But if Rank's fate is anything like that endured by English China Clay since Mr Teare left in 1995, shareholders should be pitted.

Now predominantly a supplier of whitener to the paper industry, ECC is caught in a horrible pincer. First, there is plentiful supply of both kaolin, the natural raw material, and its synthetic substitute. Secondly, the main customers for the product — paper makers — are flat on their backs.

In the past five years earnings have gone nowhere. The management at ECC says it has not been given a chance to prove itself capable of building higher-margin specialty materials and chemicals businesses. The idea is to use

the cash-generating abilities of the low-margin commodity side to develop the more exciting opportunities. ECC also reckons the £680 million Imperial bid, announced yesterday, undervalues ECC's reserves of superior quality kaolin.

ECC shareholders will be forgiven for losing patience. Imperial, its French competitor, is in scarcely a better position



Lasmo

LADEN with debt, Lasmo is in greater need of a merger partner than Enterprise Oil, its former foe. But the chances of a deal were looking slim yesterday. More probable is the intervention of a third party. A medium-sized integrated European or American oil company could top up its reserves at a cost of \$3-\$4 per barrel by buying Lasmo and taking on its debt. That compares with an average finding cost for US companies of \$5 per barrel via the drill bit.

Both managements recognise the risk. Doubtless this is the reason why they have now found beauty in one another. Nevertheless, while the arguments for doing something are more pressing than ever, a Lasmo/Enterprise merger may not provide the answer. It will take more than a quick bit of cost cutting to cure the ills.

There is a quick £20 million to be gained selling the

company. Jag and, lacking a geologist or two, but this does not provide shareholders with a long-term solution. They want a more stable business, more resilient to oil price volatility and that means joining a different league. Both Enterprise and Lasmo need to be part of a larger company with a better spread of assets. They also need management that can see beyond the current oil price.

Both Lasmo and Enterprise shares should continue to benefit from takeover speculation.

Tomkins

TOMKINS has done the trendy things. It has embraced share buybacks and got itself loved. But its shares remain unloved and are now only 25p above the 203p low they hit in 1994.

This is a poor reward for years of consistent growth. Yet a change in sentiment looks unlikely when cracks are starting to appear. Pre-

tax profit growth has slowed to just 2.4 per cent. Tomkins has shared in the strength of the US economy, which provides half of group sales. But its industrial and automotive engineering division is being hit. Construction components, a division dependent on the US housing market, is OK so far, but the scope for further reductions in profit forecasts is clear.

Food manufacturing is in good shape but, again, margins could prove vulnerable if the UK moves into recession. And then there is the embarrassment of having to make a £40 million provision against the enforced sale of flour mills bought for £97 million only last March.

Still, the falling price of manufacturing acquisitions should bring the best out of Tomkins's management. The shares trade on less than 10 times earnings — attractive for patient investors.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

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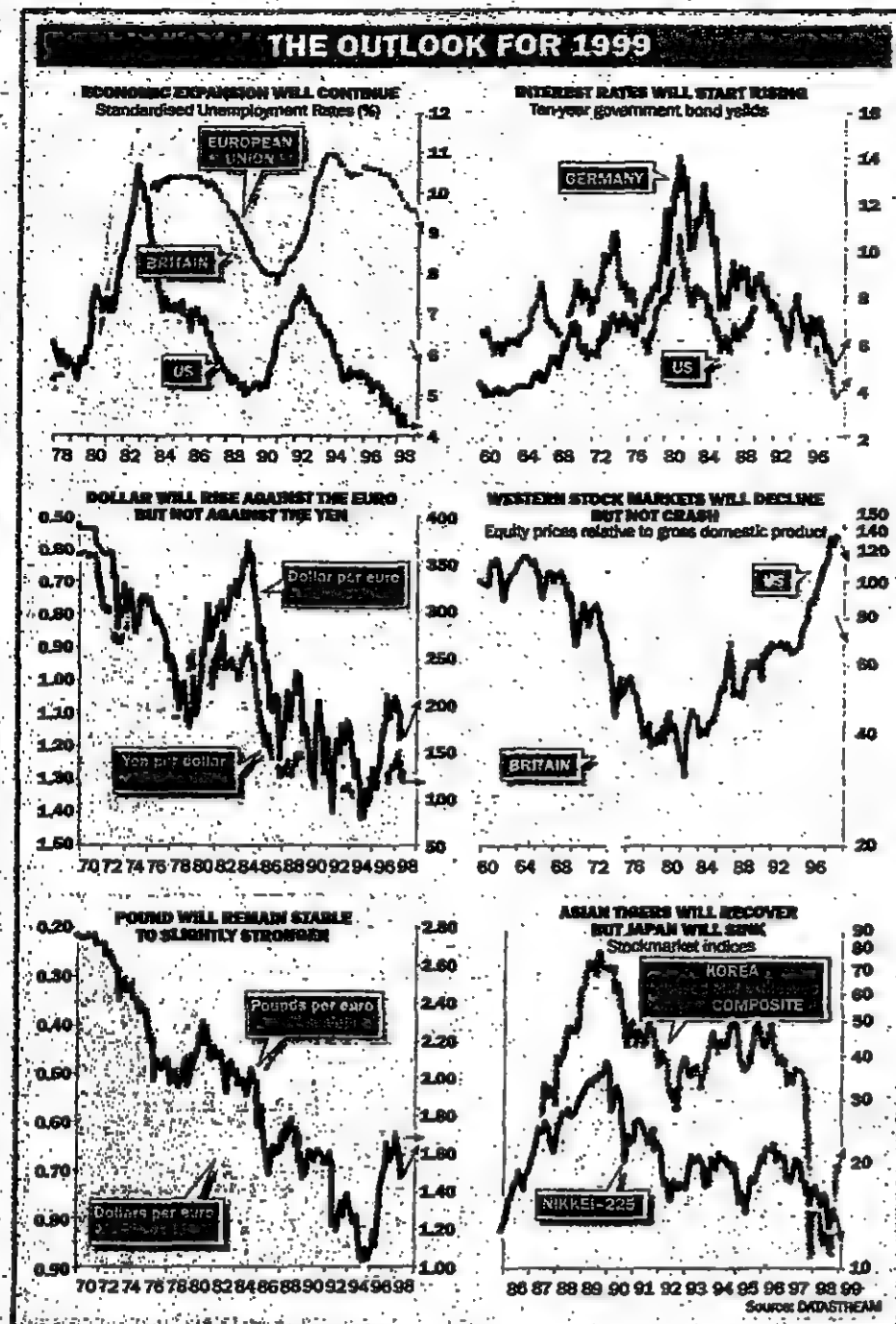
Future bright unless Europe is set on kamikaze mission

The world is unlikely to return to a pre-Keynesian age of innocence

After preparing the charts to accompany the annual gazing in which I indulged today, I glanced back to the way this year was laid out last year. I was suddenly struck by a horrible realisation. Of the six charts I have presented on the right, four are virtually identical to the ones that were published here exactly a year ago. Last January I felt even more confident than I do today that the dollar would strengthen against the euro, that the pound would prove "surprisingly stable", that long-term interest rates would start rising and that "the bears would take charge" on Wall Street and the other main Western stock markets. Only one of these four predictions — the one about the pound — turned out to be anywhere near right. So how do I now repeat the same views?

Shouldn't I adjust my opinions, in the spirit of Keynes's celebrated rejoinder: "When the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do, Sir?" And what if this year's predictions do turn out to be right? Won't I be guilty of simply applying the "stopped clock" theory of forecasting: the principle that if you keep saying the same thing for long enough, a time will eventually come when you seem to be exactly right?

These are all potentially valid criticisms. I will therefore



financial markets. One of my side-bets for 1999 is that people will finally realise that London's position as the financial centre of Europe has nothing to do with whether the bankers and dealers buy their sandwiches with euros or pounds. (On the other hand, the rapidly improving gastronomic quality of the sandwiches available in the City has been a major plus.)

I also expect the US economy to remain much stronger than expected. The OECD has just predicted that US growth will fall from 3.5 per cent in 1998 to 1.5 per cent this year. This forecast could be beaten by as much as a full percentage point, just as it was last year. The upward momentum of US consumption, investment and income growth remains strong and I see no reason why this should be reversed even if the stock market falls quite sharply, which I think it eventually will.

Of course, every silver lining has a cloud behind it. If I am right about the unexpected strength of the world economy, then interest rates, particularly in Britain and America, will not fall as far as markets expect. My guess is that British base rates will bottom at

5.5 or 5.75 per cent, rather than the 5 per cent discounted in futures markets, or the even lower figures predicted by most City analysts. This means that the pound is more likely to rise a bit than to fall, at least against the euro. American rates are unlikely to fall any further at all.

Whether and when American rates will start rising is the great, unponderable which will determine the fate of Wall Street and all other financial markets. I suspect that the Federal Reserve will move to a tightening bias, without actually raising rates, sometime in the spring. This could be the event that sets off another stock market correction. But will this finally turn out to be the long-expected bear market? I think it will.

Once the market decides that the US and world economies are growing more strongly than expected and that interest rates are rising, there will be a strong sense that this is a decisive turn in the economic cycle and not just a temporary blip. This should be reflected in a big upward shift in worldwide long-term interest rates. These are

now at post-War lows. These rates can only be justified if we assume that inflation will remain not just low but non-existent — and not just for the next few years but forever. I think this is extremely improbable.

Having discovered that recessions can be prevented by demand management and that money can be printed at will, I think the world is unlikely ever to return to a pre-Keynesian age of innocence, when prices were as likely to fall as to rise. If bonds turn, then equity prices will certainly fall even more sharply. The bear market in equities will not be caused by fears of recession, as assumed last summer. Instead investors will decide that stratospheric valuation levels cannot be sustained in a world of higher interest rates. I do not, however, expect the setback in equities to be particularly catastrophic. I reject completely the view that Wall Street is in some kind of Japanese-style bubble. Later-day examples of Tulip Mania certainly abound among the Internet stocks, most of which will end up literally worthless, but shares in established American, British and European companies should start to look

attractively valued again after a 40 per cent fall, typical of past bear markets. And before the bear market begins, perhaps in the summer, leading equities could easily rise by another 10 per cent.

So far I have focused on Britain and America, but the prospects for continental Europe and Asian emerging markets are also potentially good. The Asian "tigers" are now clearly recovering. Given a fair wind from America and Europe this should continue. Europe, if it had the right policies, could grow rapidly for years, easily halving its present 11 per cent rate of unemployment. What are the "right" policies for Europe? Changes in employment practices, deregulation and tax reform are needed but by far the most important policies that could rapidly reduce unemployment are the ones that the politicians of euroland have handed over to the unaccountable and largely inexperienced bureaucrats who now run the European Central Bank: further urgent reductions in interest rates and, above all, a determined effort to push the euro gradually but significantly lower against the dollar and yen.

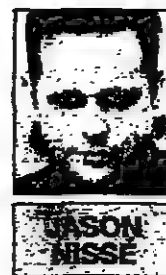
If the ECB adopted such pro-growth policies, the accelerating growth and falling unemployment in Europe would largely deal with the biggest structural problems hanging over the world economy — the huge imbalances of trade and savings between America, Japan and the EU.

The same could be even more true of Japan, but the Japanese Government has wasted another year with half-hearted implementation of economically illiterate policies. It is now probably too late, both economically and politically, to hope that anything can be done this year to reverse what Richard Medley, the consultant based in New York, has aptly called Japan's "death spiral". As the spiral continues, the yen will remain malignantly hard and the Nikkei will sink to new lows.

The greatest danger facing the world economy in 1999 is that European policymakers will now make the same mistake as the Japanese. Instead of acting immediately to guarantee continuing growth in euroland, the ECB may wait until it is too late. If this happens, then euroland could easily be caught in a Japanese-style spiral, with an overvalued currency investment and employment to collapse, which in turn causes bigger trade surpluses and pushes the currency even higher.

This brings me back to the caveat I mentioned at the start. If the euro continues to appreciate against the dollar in the first few months of its existence, the already grim industrial conditions in Europe — and especially in Germany — could deteriorate very fast. If this is allowed to happen, I will have to conclude that the ECB is set on a Japanese-style kamikaze mission. My entire optimistic scenario for the world economy will have to be torn up.

PlayStation stands the test of time in a technological era



JASON ANISE

The pace of the technological revolution means that products that are new and exciting today will be dull and old hat in a couple of years' time. As soon as I took delivery of a computer with a 486 chip, Intel brought out the Pentium processors and the Pentium II soon followed. I feel like I'm driving a Model T Ford.

So how come the Sony PlayStation is still selling so well? More than three years after it was launched, the PlayStation has just had its best Christmas, selling more than 500,000 consoles in the UK and more than five million worldwide.

This means that there are now more than 3.5 million PlayStation consoles in the UK and 50 million around the world, representing sales of nearly £10 billion for Sony's first interactive entertainment product. When you add in the amount that has been spent on games for the consoles, it is easy to see sales of more than £20 billion on PlayStation.

What is perhaps even more startling is that — ignoring pre-paid mobile phones — PlayStation was also the most popular present given in the UK this Christmas. We have all heard about Furbies, the craze of 1998. Well, only 350,000 Furbies were sold in the UK this Christmas, 70 per cent of the PlayStation sales. Not only that but PlayStation has been outselling Nintendo 64, its newer and more powerful rival by between two and three to one over recent months.

So how has Sony done it? The story of PlayStation goes back to 1995, when Sony launched the product in an attempt to break into the lucrative games console market that was dominated by Sega and Nintendo. At the time of the launch, Nintendo was still a year away from launching N64, so Sony only had to worry about Sega Saturn, a console that is every bit as good as PlayStation. Yet PlayStation demolished Saturn in the marketplace and it did so for two reasons.

Firstly, the Sony name, and the structure of the company, helped PlayStation immensely. Many of the old Sega and Nintendo users were teenage boys and young men, who were your archetypal "early adopters" in marketing terms, although others might prefer to call them nerds. Sony needed to break out of that group and attract people who were interested in interactive entertainment but were not sure about it. It used the fact that it had a good brand name in electronics and well-developed distribution channels to try to attract part of the market that Sega and Nintendo had yet to touch.

Secondly, Sony was used to being able to deliver whole entertainment packages. Ever since it lost the Betamax/VHS battle in the late-1970s, when Sony's superior video recorder technology failed because it could not persuade the Hollywood studios to release videos in the Betamax format, it had been developing its entertainment side. It bought a film studio and a record company and used both of these to cement its position in the electronics market.

In computer games it was a

little more difficult. Sony bought Psygnosis, a games maker based in Liverpool, a couple of years before it launched PlayStation. This allowed it to develop games for its new console, and gave it a good idea of what sold in the games market and how Nintendo and Sega were doing. Critically, Sony allowed all the big games companies access to its computer codes

months before its launch, so that there were 20 important games available on PlayStation within a few weeks of its release. Sega was much more secretive.

The fact that so many games were available on PlayStation has also been one reason for its longevity. The second is a strategy of continually reducing the sale price, from an original £249 to £99 today. This has been matched by Nintendo 64, but Sony appears to have won this little price battle. The third has been aggressive marketing through television and sponsorship.

Alan Weissman, UK market-

ing director for Sony Entertainment, reckons that during 1998 Sony spent £20 million promoting PlayStation in the UK. Most of this has been on television advertising, including the award-winning Double Lives advert made by TBWA, and a large amount of cross promotion with games makers. This means that when the latest Spiro the Dragon, Lara Croft or Crash Bandicoot game comes out, Sony will devise a joint advert and often will pay for it. The next one coming to our screens is for Metal Gear Solid, the new hit game from Japanese group Konami, which apparently incorporates real emotional responses as part of the interactive experience.

Sony has also been spending a fortune on sponsorship. In football it has deals with the FA Premier League and the Champions League and it supports underground sports such as snowboarding, skateboarding and inline skating. It has also been sponsoring club nights and some music events, though it would steer clear of something as "uncool" as Phil Collins.

The real challenge will come this summer, when Sega launches Dreamcast, the next generation of console. In Europe, Sony does not have a rival to Dreamcast yet, so it will be fighting Sega with one hand behind its back this Christmas. However, given that PlayStation will be a third of Dreamcast's price, and there will be 20 times as many games available, Sega will have a tough task knocking PlayStation off top spot for Christmas 1999.

Crash Bandicoot has benefited from advertising help from Sony



Crash Bandicoot has benefited from advertising help from Sony

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Herr raising

"DOING business in Germany" is the title of an internal briefing document sent out to senior managers at Bankers Trust to help them during the merger talks with Deutsche Bank. "The German/American interface in the business world is tricky for both sides," it begins.

"Americans frequently feel that the Germans are rigid and authoritarian, and the Germans find the Americans superficial and often unreliable." Well, that's national stereotypes over and done with.



"Herr big tobacco merger ahead"

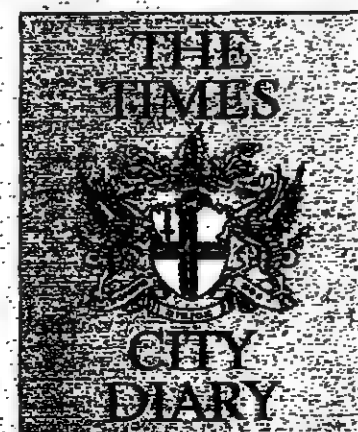
A German colleague says some of the advice on etiquette is somewhat old-fashioned, but it is, I suppose, useful to know that it is rude to tap your forehead in conversation or to arrive more than 15 minutes late for dinner.

The note ends with a section on cultural attitudes — Americans live in the present. "For Germans, a sense of impending catastrophe is nothing unusual," it warns. US-style optimism "is equated with naivete". And no, nothing saying don't mention the war.

SO FAR two airlines, and counting, have put themselves forward as the originator of my story on Saturday about Nicola, the foul-mouthed eight-year-old and her unimpressed advice to the pilot. British Airways insisted the story, and the pilot, was theirs, although I had my doubts. British Midland is claiming Nicola for their own, from a couple of decades ago. But I have two claims so far for Qantas, and some reliable-looking evidence. Any others?

Diving in

TODAY'S trading statement from Kingfisher, the Woolworth, B&Q and Comet retail combine, will be the first



to be presented by Mike Hingston, an old mate of Sir Geoff Mulcahy, chief executive, who has slipped in unnoticed as the director of corporate communications.

Hingston used to be at Kingfisher — during the Dixons bid he even postponed his honeymoon to be around — but left to make a few bob from his own agency.

His return has eclipsed the man who was doing the job, because Hingston has been given a seat on the executive committee, where the real power is. So John Eyre is taking early retirement at 59.

This is not the first time Mulcahy, who feels comfortable surrounded by like-minded, has re-hired a friend. Hingston has a brief to emphasise the European side of Kingfisher — 45 per cent of business comes from outside the UK, a fact that Mulcahy, I un-

derstand, thinks has been overlooked. Expect the fact to be afforded some prominence today.

Inne keeping

THE Old English Pub Company has been casting around for a new name. Shareholders need not fear a huge bill for image consultants and a sudden, Diageo-style makeover into something mis-spelt and obscure, because the company is merely looking to reflect a growing focus on accommodation.

Barry Warwick, the convivial chief executive, was taken by Old English Inns, but the name has already been nabbed by a pubman in North. However today's trading statement may contain news that Warwick's negotiating skills and a small cheque have proved sufficient.

VIRGIN TRAINS continues to eradicate the last smidgen of goodwill still attached to the Virgin name from Richard Branson's successes elsewhere. Commuters into Euston have been handed a bizarre apology from Chris Tibbits, the managing director, for the state of the rolling stock.

The cleaning equipment is being upgraded. "Unfortunately, this means that for the next few weeks, as we will be cleaning the trains by hand, you may notice that they are not as clean as usual." I think this translates as, sorry the trains are so filthy but we've been cleaning them.



Green: unexpected video windfall

Repeat fees

MICHAEL GREEN'S Carlton is set to earn uncoupled millions from a pornographic video, I can reveal. Before Carlton's lawyers book their next expensive holiday, the whole thing is quite legitimate. Disney, as you may have read elsewhere, is having to withdraw 3.4 million copies of The Rescuers because they contain unauthorised images. Technicolor, a Carlton subsidiary, produced them but was in no way at fault. So it gets to do the job again. It's an ill wind...

MARTIN WALLER

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CLASSICAL CDS

Who spent the best afternoon with Debussy?

THIS PAGE

THE TIMES

ARTS

DANCE



Stylish highlights, but needs a trim

Barbara's biological clock is going tick-tock — or, as it sometimes seems in Liz Lochhead's warm, likeable but long-winded comedy, tick-tock tick-tock. She is a Glaswegian, turning 39, separated from her husband, David, successful enough in her career as a hairdresser to appear in TV makeover programmes, but desperate to have a child, though not necessarily in the old-fashioned way "where the husband is present at the conception". What is she to do?

Her mother, a bigoted old trout of whom Barbs is indifferently fond, thinks she should be reconciled with David; but he is besotted with a 22-year-old dolly, Barbs herself persuades a gay friend, Brendan, to donate regular lashings of sperm via a turkey-baster. She also starts an affair with her sister-in-law's son, who was adopted while a tot but has come to Glasgow in search of his long-lost mother. The re-

THEATRE

Perfect Days

Hamstead

sult is a successful pregnancy, but one that occurs in so unexpected yet so satisfyingly logical a way that you should forgive me for giving away the plot. I find myself in at least two minds about this play. One of those minds is grateful to Lochhead for creating several plausible if not too-deep characters, prime among them Barbs herself. It is a role that gives the excellent Siobhan Redmond every chance to toss her mane of red hair and nervily pace her giant loft, while projecting the forlorn resilience or artificially bright desolation of a woman who, as she remarks, "can't see how I can be pushing 40 when I still don't know what I'm going to do when I grow up".

But the other mind persistently grumbled at scenes that almost invariably consist of duologues involving Barbs and A.N. Other and absolutely invariably go on too long. Dramatic momentum is not yet Lochhead's strength, nor is understatement. She needs to learn to hint, suggest, imply — and not leave thoughts and feelings at us as if they were cabers and we were spectators at some Lowland gathering where prizes are given for verbal labour.

Yet her humanity is not in doubt. I wondered at times if she had fully pondered the implications for the child of being brought up by a mother who would be 38, busy, and probably still unmarried or unpartnered when he or she reached 18; but there is plenty in the play to show that she does. When she is absent it is usually milder than it might be.

John Tiffany, who directs, could do more to quicken the pace, but gets as much as can reasonably be expected from his supporting performers: John Kasek as kindly Brendan, Enzo Cilenti in the somewhat awkwardly written role of Barbs's eager young lover, and, above all, Scott-Jones as a mum with loud, blunt opinions and the embarrassing habit of wearing cardies plastered with hearts and tiny Christmas trees or presenting her daughter with lurid magenta jerseys festooned with stars. When this feisty figure is onstage the temperature rises.

When she is absent it is usually milder than it might be.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

This short, unhappy life

with the premiere of *Not I*, 15 or so minutes of searing monologue staged in a pale light in which we could just make out Billie Whitelaw's mouth ceaselessly babbling. Krapps may come and go but that Whitelaw mouth stays with me.

THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE

Krapp's Last Tape

ARTS

with *Breath*, though I am pleased to have caught sight of it at last. (Blink and you miss it.) It is said to be the shortest play ever written — the stage directions take longer to read than the piece itself. A stage littered with rubbish becomes visible in a light that moves from faint to less faint to more faint. At the same time we hear what Beckett calls an "instant of recorded vagitus", ie a baby's cry, a breath is inhaled, exhaled and the cry heard again as the light fades. That's life.

The applause developed out of gulps of laughter, probably recognising Beckett's nerve more than the work itself, which only superficially seems the quintessence of Beckettism. He has finally annihilated both words and action but his best work injects us with

short doses of precise, concise language.

This is his achievement in *Krapp*. Here a man is marking his 69th birthday by playing the tape he recorded 30 years earlier. Memories of that year surge to the surface, and what Petherbridge conveys so admirably, co-directing himself with David Hunt, is the stillness of the man listening to his younger self, so rashly confident, so blithely unaware of the withering years ahead.

With his wild white hair and raw-nosed face he has the look of a clown stripped of his make-up, defenceless against these assaults from the past. For it is not the gossamer of rhetoric that engage him — he furiously winds the tape past such passages — but the limpid account of drifting in a boat with a girl. Their love affair is reaching its end and, 30 years on, he rewinds the tape again and again to hear his simple, vivid phrases. Beckett gives Krapp no words to express his response but Petherbridge stares into the nothingness of his present day and, within a certain range, we complete the picture of his desolation for ourselves. That's life.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Edward Petherbridge (Krapp) listens to his younger self



Siobhan Redmond is celebrity hairdresser Barbs in Liz Lochhead's warm, likeable but long-winded comedy *Perfect Days*

CONCERTS: Spain meets Russia in Manchester; impressive work from the youngsters; and a centenary salute

Homage to Catalonia

As music director of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, Lawrence Foster has taken on a whole new repertoire. Spanish music, Falla above all, he obviously knew before, but Catalan music is something different. So the Spanish and Catalan programme he brought to his concert with the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester aroused keen anticipation and nervous apprehension in equal proportions — the apprehension deriving largely from the feeling that the Tchaikovsky symphony clumsily tackled on at the end would do little or nothing to compensate for the box-office negative represented by the rest of the concert.

In fact, the Bridgewater Hall was far from full. Persuasive publicity might have improved the situation but, bearing in mind that it might also have led to more widespread disappointment with at least one of the Catalan pieces, it is probably as well that it was not applied in this case.

Xavier Montsalvage's *Serenata a Lydia* for flute and orchestra was very welcome, even though it is probably more successful in its original form than in this introduction for unaccompanied flute, which seemed disproportionately long in these circumstances, making a rather more atmospheric effect in the church at Cadiz where the piece was first performed. But it is resourcefully and delicately adapted to the solo instrument as to inspire a most ac-

Hallé/Foster

Manchester

complished and stylish performance from the Barcelona flautist Magdalena Martínez.

The music director of the Barcelona SO might, on the other hand, have spared us the Trombone Concerto of Salvador Brotons, which is as crudely put together as the translation of the programme note that came with it. It is true that concertos for trombone have always had a built-in disadvantage — which is why there are so few of them — and the problem is all the more acute now that they more or less have to take a variety of extended techniques into account. The Spanish soloist, Ricardo Casero, proved himself equal to the demands of Brotons's Op 70 (not bad going for a composer of 40) but without demonstrating that there is anything distinctive or more than minimally interesting in it, least of all its grotesque and structurally too early cadenza.

If it made good sense to open the concert with three dances from Falla's *El amor brujo*, it made none at all to end it with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony — except that the latter work was delivered in a performance that was emotionally and dramatically fresh, particularly well coloured in the scherzo, and secure in the long-standing faith the Hallé and Foster have in each other.

GERALD LARNER

Fresh in the memory

Different though they all are, a "typical" concert in the PLC Young Artists Series usually consists of several short pieces written some time between 1950 and last week. But Thursday's event featured a single, massive work composed in the early years of the century: Charles Ives's *Concord Sonata*, given a hugely impressive performance by Australian pianist Mark Kruger.

No work represents the spirit of Ives better than this sonata, which takes its name from the Massachusetts village that was home to the New England Transcendentalists. Much of it still sounds as modern as ever, especially the long and lofty first movement. Kruger, who played the entire work from memory, unfolded this convincingly, showing his command of pianistic colour in everything from the clanging chords to the dusky musings.

If the jazzy and experimental scherzo-like movement that follows offers the listener some relief, it is even more taxing for the performer: Kruger demonstrated



all his virtuosity here, before relaxing into the almost folksy beauty of the third movement and the hazy finale. He was joined at the close by the flautist Kathryn Thomas, for the nostalgic melody that serves the whole work.

In the main concert of the evening, the Galliard Ensemble wind quintet played four living composers: two were present, one aged 89 and the other 16. Minna Keal's return to composition in the mid-1970s was signalled by her *Wind Quintet*, a work of bold and sometimes poignant gestures. The fluency of James Olsen's writing in *Imbroglia*, full of lively ideas and a sometimes quirky lyricism, marks him out as a name to watch.

Birtwistle's first published work, *Refrains and Choruses*, makes demands

that were easily met by the Galliards: the capricious textures were handled with the same assurance they brought to Ligeti in the beguiling *Six Bagatelles*. Ligeti may still have been under the influence of Stravinsky here, but he was already experimenting with unusual tonal colour.

Sharing this concert was the French harpist Anne-Sophie Bertrand, an artist of real poise. Her programme included one premiere: the Belgian Franz Geysens's *Heptaminomania*. Based on the number seven, as its title suggests, the piece is a *perpetuum mobile* that builds from a gentle fluttering to a vigorous end.

Works by Heinz Holliger and Marius Constant brought forth a dazzling display, and the even more extreme contrasts in Carter's *Barrologie* were shaped cohesively in a performance of great beauty. Paul Patterson's *Spiders* gave Bertrand scope for wit too: she has everything it takes to be a "complete" musician.

JOHN ALLISON

Pout, patter and profanity

When Francis Poulenc and Pierre Bernac gave their first London recital after the liberation of Paris, it was on Poulenc's birthday, January 7, and it was at the Wigmore Hall. On the same date and in the same venue, 54 years on, the centenary of the composer's birth was celebrated in a gala concert on Thursday which, I suspect, would have pleased Poulenc no end.

He may well have been surprised at the devoted silence which attended Felicity Lott's little encore performance of the sly *Chemin d'amour*: Poulenc always felt that, if he were remembered at all, it would be by works like his *Stabat Mater*, not by those echoes of the café-concert and the music-hall.

It was, indeed, just those songs which continue to make Poulenc a composer, the French love to hate which



were entrusted to Lott and her pianist Graham Johnson. The *Trois poèmes de Louise Lalanne* of 1931, and the *Métamorphoses* of 1943 had Lott pouting, patterning and tra-la-ing, while Johnson, enjoying the sea-spray of the *Reine des muettes* and the mischief of *Paganini*, seemed for all the world like a reincarnation of Poulenc himself, composing as he sat at the piano.

Not a hint of café or cabaret, not a trace of Jacques Trenet was to be heard, though, in the nine sombre prewar settings of the poetry of Paul Eluard in the cycle *Tel jour, telle nuit*. And now it was

Even with the ballast of these more heartfelt songs, an entire evening of Poulenc song can wear a bit thin. So it was good to have the young pianist Steven Osborne on hand to give tenderly witty performances of three of Poulenc's *Nocturnes*. Good, too, to be reminded by the BBC Singers of the composer's skill in choral writing in *Un soir de neige* and a handful of the folksy *Chansons françaises*.

And, best of all, the charivari of musical characters which make up the Nash Ensemble were ideally cast, with pianist Susan Tomes and baritone François Le Roux, to inhabit the leering masks of Poulenc's "cantate profane". *Le bal masqué*, with its crackling whip, truant cornet and clowning woodwind. The concert may be heard on Radio 3 at 7.30pm tonight.

HILARY FINCH

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical recordings.

in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

DEBUSSY: PRELUDE A L'APRES-MIDI D'UN FAUNE

Reviewed by Stephen Johnson

DEBUSSY'S famous *Prelude* isn't simply a superlative piece of orchestral tonal painting, it is perhaps the most effective of all attempts to translate a piece of poetry into musical terms. In Stéphane Mallarmé's poem *L'après-midi d'un faune*, a young faun submits to lascivious, ultimately blasphemous fantasies as he basks in the full heat of the Mediterranean sun.

Debussy follows the poem quite closely, from the incantation of the faun's pipes (solo flute) at the opening, via the rapt central hymn to the end, where he stretches out his limbs in the sand and "succumbs to noontime's ceremonial silence".

Few flautists capture that incantatory quality in the opening flute solo as well as the London Philharmonic's Jonathan Snowden in the recording conducted by Serge Baudo (Classics for Pleasure, CD-CFP 6022, £6.99). The continuation — quiet ripples of colour from harp, distant horn-calls, and one of the most magical silences in all music — is just as fine. Snowden isn't the only impressive flautist: there's Michel Debost of the Orchestre de Paris, conducted by Daniel Barenboim, or

the Cleveland Orchestra's Joshua Smith, as recorded under Pierre Boulez (both on DG). But Debost tends to stand out as the "star" of the Barenboim version: when he's not playing the performance has a tendency to heaviness. Smith is more a *primus inter pares*, but the beauty is all rather chaste, as is the performance as a whole — and you won't find much about chastity in Mallarmé's poem.

Herbert von Karajan's earlier (and much finer) DG recording with the Berlin Philharmonic appeared in 1965, but it sounds very presentable in CD transfer. In this version the central hymn is very much the high point: magnificent, sumptuous, it rises, crests and falls like an immense wave.

Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra (Sony Classical) stir the emotions too. Ormandy's is a version which sings, and it's full of vibrant, truly Mediterranean colours. So too — remarkably — is the 1939 recording by the LPO conducted by Thomas Beecham (Pearl). Beecham is never quite as ardent as Ormandy, but there's some exquisite solo playing, and the coda has a poetry of its own. If it had to be one recording though, I'd choose Baudo: consistently poetic, beautifully played, in an atmospheric modern recording, and at budget price.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO881, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0245 024498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Schubert's Trout Piano Quintet.

Balloons that speak volume

Last orders in the waste land

VISUAL ART:

Charles Saatchi not only financed *Neurotic Realism*, he also named it. Richard Cork views the results.

Despite his prodigious appetite for the latest art, Charles Saatchi has until now stopped short of naming a new movement. When Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread and their contemporaries first appeared at his gallery in the early 1990s, their show was given the non-committal title *Young British Artists*. Its studied neutrality acknowledged that the heyday of "isms" belonged to a distant age. Before the First World War, Futurism, Expressionism, Cubism and Surrealism were only the most notorious of the revolutionary groups that erupted during Modernism's most turbulent years. But artists in recent decades have shied away from labels, so the arrival of *Neurotic Realism* at the Saatchi Gallery is a great surprise.

Equally unusual is the fact that this movement was invented by a collector. From Impressionism onwards, many avant-garde upheavals derived from terms of abuse, hurled by enraged critics or gallery visitors. Only a few groups were named by the artists themselves, and none was the brainchild of a patron who purchased their work. In that respect Saatchi's launching of *Neurotic Realism* breaks with historical precedent. It seems to inaugurate a bolder, more open and partisan approach on his part.

Neurotic Realism is not, however, completely divorced from the artists displayed in the Royal Academy's *Sensation* exhibition. Martin Maloney, the only painter in this new show, was included in that survey. The overlap extends to the ICA's *Die Young* exhibition, which opened in Maloney last year. Among its most prominent participants was Steven Gontarski, whose sculpture now reappears at the Saatchi Gallery. *Die Young* was turned out to be a disappointingly slight event. But *Neurotic Realism*, in this first instalment at least, is far more substantial.

Nobody displays more apocalyptic relish than Tomoko Takahashi. Tokyo-born but now based in London, she has been given by far the largest area and handles it with gusto. Viewed from the top of the steps, her mammoth installation looks like a nightmarish prophecy of chronic millennial malfunction. The entire floor is strewn with detritus scavenged from skips, dumps and friends' attics. Initially, the room resembles a technological graveyard: a wasteland of instant obsolescence. But, as I scanned the piles of junk, signs of activity began to assert themselves.

The bars of a small heater glow orange inside an office drawer. The deck of a record-player spins round, carrying watch mechanisms rather than LPs and relaying no sound at all. It is as futile as the TV sets scattered around the room, flickering and buzzing but failing to transmit any coherent images. Although clocks tick on crazily chaotic tables, they are incapable of telling the correct time. A glass water-jug bubbles pointlessly on a hot-plate, while a nearby electric fan swivels inside a metal box. The sense of absurdity is reinforced by a grum-



No artist exhibited at *Neurotic Realism Part 1* displays more apocalyptic relish than Tomoko Takahashi. Her mammoth installation *Line-Out* (1998) looks like a nightmarish prophecy of chronic millennial malfunction

bling spin-drier, vigorously rotating with its door open and nothing inside. Reminiscent of Bill Woodrow's early work, it counts here only as one of a thousand redundant objects.

Encountered on the pavement of a blighted street, they would all be dismissed as rubbish. Reassembled in this installation, though, they finally take on an unlikely order of their own. Takahashi has carved out narrow pathways between the heaps, enabling us to pick a path gingerly through the bedlam. At the same time, though, she conveys an overwhelming sense of pulverised breakdown. Like the crash-helicopter resting upside-down on an abandoned

case, or the corner crammed with fragments from half-crushed bicycles, the space resembles the scene of a cataclysmic accident caused by forces beyond human control.

If Takahashi's contribution manages to sound an end-of-the-century warning, Brian C. Griffiths's roomful of equipment reduces dysfunction to a childlike level. The control consoles lining the walls should be streamlined, gleaming and state-of-the-art, fit for a set in a science-fiction movie. In reality, though, they are made of cardboard boxes joined together with ungainly strips of brown tape. This is *Star Trek*'s starship reconstructed by a cack-handed, and quite possi-

bly deranged, DIY devotee. The clocks and monitors turn out to be made of pencils or burnt matchsticks glued on to cheap plastic plates. Chipped, smeared and stained, these redundant space-age monoliths are at once laughable and forlorn. Long since discarded, they have lapsed into melancholy and inertia. So far, although the presence of human beings has been implied in the exhibition, they remain impossible to detect. But Paul Smith's powerful photographic images focus on people. In *Artist Rifle Series*, uniformed figures carry out manoeuvres informed, no doubt, by Smith's own army experiences. Moving between beach,

woodland and swamp, they appear at first to have a documentary veracity.

Soon enough, however, we realise that the young men's faces are oddly similar. Using digital techniques, Smith has inserted himself in all of them. Like a demented actor bent on talking every part in the drama, he plays the three soldiers grimly shovelling sand as well as the corpse half-buried below them. Armed with a Sten gun, he emerges from a forest tottering under the weight of his own injured body slumped across his shoulders.

Sometimes, it is possible to ignore his pervasive presence and simply admire these images as arresting, even alarming

re-creations of death-haunted military exercises. But Smith does not allow us to forget him for long. When he appears ten times over as a crowd of victorious soldiers cheering their conquest of a burnt-out tank, his sheer recognisability makes the celebrations look like a charade. The play-acting involved in training exercises is here pushed to the point of outright ridicule, and yet the underlying coldness of these lethal rituals is, in a strange way, intensified by Smith's interventions.

Both here, and in another series of larger-than-partying called *Make my Night*, his insistence on posing for every figure gives the pictures a demented mood. Whether urinat-

ing in the pents, kissing a phallic cucumber or pouring booze on a mate in the pub, Smith's identical drunken lads eventually take on the guise of crazed automatons.

In this sense, they have unexpected links with the bodies in Steven Gontarski's sculpture. Made of PVC stuffed with polyester wadding, most of his figures are involved in orgasmic coupling. Although their faces are so blank that they verge on the robotic, human details have been added to their shimmering limbs. Matted hair can be detected, along with transfer tattoos and kinky socks hanging off leg-stumps.

But even the synthetic clothing serves only to stress their creepiness. Whether lunging lustily at one another or intertwining so closely that their separate forms are impossible to identify, these libidinous performers are all repellent. One pair, copulating on a Perspex plinth, seem to be sucking their faces into a single, hideously distorted, glutinous mass. For all their voracious concentration on sex, their bodies look so prosthetic that a feeling of futility hangs over even their most acrobatic feats.

Martin Maloney, at 37 the oldest exhibitor, operates as an *éminence grise* in *Neurotic Realism* circles. Here, however, he seems most closely allied with Gontarski's macabre pleasure-hunting. His paintings have grown larger, darker and more erotically explicit. Walking into Maloney's main room is akin to entering a gay club where everyone is hooked on unsafe sex. Tongues hang out, buttocks are brandished and fingers grab hungrily at dangling genitals.

But there is no sign of joy. The emphasis throughout these deliberately crude, daubed canvases is on impersonal gratification, pursued automatically by people devoid of love. Rave culture may be regarded by its participants as heaven, but in Maloney's panoramas it looks more like hell.

Neurotic Realism Part 1 at the Saatchi Gallery, 98A Boundary Road, London NW8 0171-624 8299 from Thursday until April 4



An emphasis on impersonal gratification, pursued by people devoid of love (left) Steven Gontarski's *Lesbians Acquiesce* (1998) and Martin Maloney's *Sex Club* (1998)



OTHER EXHIBITIONS IN LONDON AND THE REGIONS

Balloons that speak volumes

A CLUSTER of helium balloons nestle against the ceiling. Look closer and you will see that they are comic-strip speech bubbles. But nothing is written on them. Philippe Parreno's artwork is intended as a comment in 3D on the sheer volume and vacancy of a chattering media culture.

But the blank speech bubbles also encapsulate the spirit of *Dumbpop*. Their silence speaks. And the viewer should be suspicious of the self-deprecation which coyly labels the work of this international group of artists "dumb". These pieces are neither stupid nor naive. Sure, they are easily accessible, superficially jolly and decorative in a Sixties sort of

way. But they are not complicated with the consumerism of the pop culture they pretend to represent. Graham Little's sculpture blends minimal Sixties art with its candy-coloured fashions, questioning the point of banal enjoyment. Jim Hasegawa's cartoon teenagers balance between slickness and sense.

Jerwood Gallery, 171 Union Street, London SE1 0171-654 0171, until Jan 17

IN A month when Monet is at the forefront of the art calendar, Robert Davies makes an interesting contemporary comment on the great Impressionist's theme. Water is the subject-matter of his latest show,



Philippe Parreno's *Speech Bubbles* at the Jerwood Gallery

Like Monet, he studies its moods, its rhythms and shimmer. But Davies's is an up-to-date look. Watching hours of video footage of freshwater on a monitor screen, he takes photographic stills of what he thinks are the best moments. Nature is filtered through technology in what amounts to an

ington Place, London W1 0171-287 8841 until Feb 13

WITH all the ardour of a gang of schoolboys drawing up the rules of their back-of-the-bike shed society, the Italian Futurists were continually producing manifestos. From 1909, when Filippo Tommaso Marinetti shocked the public with an iconoclastic column on the front page of *Le Figaro*, to 1944 when this provocative Italian poet died, more than 300 manifestos were published. Controversial and aggressive, they were intended to incite argument and anger. The exhibition, *Zang Tumb Tumb*, marshals a fascinating and typographically impressive array of manifestos which are, in many ways, the most historically interesting aspect of this revolutionary movement.

Estorick Collection, 39a Canonbury Square, London N1 0171-704 9522 until April 11

THE Arts Council Collection buys some 50 new works a year, attempting to decide which artists are "here to stay". Only posterity can make the final judgment. But at least this show offers a fair representation of what has been talked about over the past decade. The organisers find a theme of domesticity to provide a fragile link between pieces as disparate as Rachel Whiteread's doorknobs, the only remaining evidence of her now vanished *House*, Kerry Stewart's unsettling sculpture of a woman performing an impossible balancing act, Anya Gallaccio's candlelit meditation on temporality or Tracey Emin's bedspread, which boldly declares "Here to Stay".

Aberystwyth Arts Centre 01970 633232 until Jan 30, then Metropole Arts Centre, Folkestone, Feb 13-March 14

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

DONMAR

LAST FIVE WEEKS

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LISTINGS

Lawrence Inquiry staged

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

ROMEO AND JULIET Sylvie Guillem and Jonathan Cope dance the roles of the star-crossed young lovers in the season's first performance by the Royal Ballet of Kenneth MacMillan's romantic work. Festival Hall (0171 580 4242). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT Herbert Blomstedt, music director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus, conducts the period instrument band for the first time. The programme comprises Schubert's



Herbert Blomstedt leads the OAE at the QEH

Second Symphony and Brahms's First Piano Concerto played on an 1875 Bösendorfer by Aless Lubian. Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-990 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm. (S)

THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE A dramatized reconstruction of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. Titled to coincide with this month's publication of the findings. Profoundly relevant. Theatre (0171-528 1000). Opens tonight, 7pm. (S)

THE ENGLISH CONCERT Welsh, Bach and Marcello receive the period instrument treatment here as Trevor Pinnock directs his internationally acclaimed ensemble. Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

ELSEWHERE

ABERDEEN Scottish Ballet's Christmas season tour touches down with Peter Davall's *Choreography*. Tine Shinozaki dances tonight's lead, with two cast changes to come. His Majesty's Theatre (01224 641122). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

BIRMINGHAM Jim Robinson, wrongly imprisoned as one of the Bridgewater Four, is the author of *Just Not Fair*, an account of his life. Jessica Dromgoole directs Malcolm Turner for Moving Theatre Company. Birmingham Rep. (0121-236 8771). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.

COVENTRY The popular soprano Lesley Garrett opens the new season here with a gala concert of favourite operatic arias and soprano solos. She is backed by the BBC Concert Orchestra, under Peter Robinson. Warwick Arts Centre (01203 524524). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
House full, returns only (S) Some seats available (S) Seats at all prices

ALLEGRIA The breathtakingly exotic *Claque du Soleil* returns to London with further prodigious feats of contortion, fire-eating and clowning. Albert Hall (0171-580 8213). (S)

AGE OF CLIMBIE Noel Coward's musical comedy, which tells of a sailor's life in 1949 and not in a sailor's life in 1949. Theatre (0171-528 1000). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

A SPECIAL OFFER Set in a play room, inspired by the book of Raymond Chandler, *Alfred Hitchcock's The Girl on the Train* is a new play by the author of the book. Young Vic Studio (0171-629 6363).

CRAPPS LAST TAPE Edward Petherbridge's touring performance as Beckett's *Quad* is a rare opportunity to see the actor's performance. Brain - total duration 35 seconds.

THE HISTORY OF WATER Alison Sudman, Samantha Bond and Julia Sawalha star in Shoggy Stephenson's acclaimed drama of family memories. Watlington Theatre (01224 641122). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

PERFECT DAYS Subliminal Redmond's award-winning performance as the third-century celebrity hard-core comedian is a truly hilarious comedy. See review, page 32. Hampstead (0171-722 9301). (S)

PETER PAN Jason Barker in the title role of a play about the boy who never grows up. Theatre (0171-528 1000). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

COURT IN THE ACT 18th-century French farce by Henricus and Verber. Catching the wit of his troupe down Orange Tree (0181-404 5533). (S)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

LITTLE VOICE (15) Mark Herman's wonderful version of Jim Carrey's escape to the USA. Homecoming director Herman's film is a real gem. (S)

THE SIEGE (15) Daniel Washington, Annette Bening, and Bruce Willis tip over each other's bodies as they try to defuse an Arab terrorist offensive in Manhattan. Chillingly real, beautifully acted. Director Edward Zwick brings a real nerve. (S)

PSYCHO (15) A real nerve. A remake of Hitchcock's original. Gus Van Sant re-creates this classic for a new generation. (S)

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG) Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew come to the rescue of a peaceful race who have found the door of death.

ANGEL DUST (PG) Cool, classy Japanese melodrama about a psychic detective who tries to nail her former lover and mentor for killing on the Tokyo tube. Sogge Ishii directs a film with local elements that ultimately have too many jitters. (S)

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG) A resolutely wistful portrait of Howard Hawks's 1944 classic in which Humphrey Bogart plays a barman and Ingrid Bergman plays a woman in love. (S)

CURRENT

THE ACID HOUSE (18) Three darkly comic tales of drugs, drink and hallucinations by three Welsh directors. Paul McGuigan. (S)

SITCOM (18) A French bourgeois family (un)lives. A French bourgeois family (un)lives. A French bourgeois family (un)lives. (S)

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG) Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew come to the rescue of a peaceful race who have found the door of death.

Dance, Japanese-style: the Sankai Juku company, the world's most popular butoh troupe, in *Shijima*, the work it brings to London next week

Mad for designer chic

Sex scandals are nothing new in the dance world. From the allegedly onanistic excesses of Nijinsky's first performance of *L'Après-midi d'un faune* to Michael Clark and Stephen Petronio's best show at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery, a spot of rumpy-pumpy surfaces every so often to lend the dance community a touch of newsworthy notoriety. Yet surely no dance event has been launched in quite such a sensationally scandalous manner as Japanese butoh.

In 1959 the first recorded performance of this extraordinary dance form included a scene in which a young man simulated sex with a chicken by strapping it between his thighs. In the future that followed, I doubt if anyone seriously bothered to ask how it was for the chicken, but for performers Tsumi Hijikata and Yoshio Ohno the uproar heralded the suitably messy birth of an art form designed to present uncomfortable truths about Japanese society in a postwar, nuclear age. The school of dance subsequently developed by Hijikata, Ohno and their disciples became known as "ankoku butoh" (dark soul dance) and was characterised by white-painted, near-naked bodies, painfully slow movements, grinning expressions and contorted postures.

All of these elements retain their potent presence within this still-evolving dance form - now usually referred to simply as butoh - but with a group like Sankai Juku, which visits Sadler's Wells next week, the explicit choreographic extremes of the early pioneers have given way to exquisite theatrical imagery and a design aesthetic that makes most Robert Wilson productions look unkindly by comparison. There are no rapes or sacrificial fowls in Sankai Juku's shows - though there are plenty of eggs; more of them later

DANCE: Butoh has come a long way since its birth in 1950s Japan, as Christopher Bowen discovered when he met up with Sankai Juku

— but that is not to say the group's take on butoh is without shock value.

The company caused a sensation at the 1982 Edinburgh International Festival when, in a sort of slow-motion butoh bungee jump, the five-man group

by people who had experienced a change of values after the war. As for the I don't know the war. Yes, there is anger in the work, but it is the anger which all human beings have. It is not Japanese anger.

"The anger of butoh is no longer Japanese anger"

According to Amagatsu, the most important aspect in the development of Sankai Juku (which translates as Academy of the Mountain and Sea) was getting out of Japan. "In Europe I experienced many different cultures, and I realised that differences are very important in understanding the essence of our own culture, and ourselves." Yet the very strangeness of butoh, the way in which these slight-lean dancers transform themselves into "tremulous creatures with stooped bodies and totally impassive or grotesquely exaggerated expressions, can make the art form seem alien to Western audiences. The movements seem so internalised and personal to the individual dancers: how are we to view them?

"Individuality is very important," explains Amagatsu. "But the aim is always to show the universality. That is the theme of all my works - life and death. It is the same everywhere. In one sense Sankai Juku is a Japanese company, but our work is common to everyone. For example, the white face and body and shaved head are always com-

pared to the Japanese traditions of the past. But for me these forms are universal; white faces and bodies are represented in African and South American art. They are all over the world." There are those, however, who feel that Amagatsu's quest for universality has led him too far from butoh's roots. Some observers regard Sankai Juku's absorption of Western theatricality with great suspicion. The dance critic and historian Kazuko Kunyoshi has written of the "mediocrity" in Amagatsu's work. And when the troupe performed its hugely successful *The Egg Stands Out of Curiosity* in Glasgow in 1990 the festival's deputy director, Neil Wallace, was heard to complain that Sankai Juku wasn't "real butoh". He has a point.

Yet exquisitely crafted works such as *Shijima*, with its massive, bas-relief setting of stacked body-forms and designer chic costumes accessorised with stylish egg earrings, give Sankai Juku an undeniable gloss. This design aesthetic is, suggests Amagatsu, as much a part of his nature as nature itself. "I grew up near the city and the sea where the air was transparent - that influenced me greatly. An appreciation of design is in my character."

So, too, is a clear appreciation of other dance forms. Amagatsu studied Graham technique in Tokyo as a young man, and there are moments in his mesmerising solos when he appears to be channeling the divine Martha in her long-winded period. As Amagatsu once wrote: "When I think of dance, the image of a prehistoric painting comes to mind." Martha, one feels, would approve.

● Sankai Juku is at Sadler's Wells (0171-863 8000) Jan 18-22

POP

Postman Elvis

Elvis attains Nirvana

IS IT a brilliant piece of Postmodern irony or gross bad taste? The King is an Elvis Presley clone with a difference: instead of recycling *Love Me Tender*, he impersonates Elvis impersonating other dead singers. Hence we get Marc Bolan, Kurt Cobain and even Jimi Hendrix in the unmistakable Presley style.

The architect of this bizarre concert is Jim Brown, a 31-year-old father of five from Belfast who has taken a two-year sabbatical from his job as a postman to have a crack at becoming the world's most famous ersatz Elvis. So far it seems to be working. Brown has been signed by EMI, John Peel has enthusiastically championed his album *Gravelands* and an appearance on Chris Evans's *101.1 Friday* ensured that this London date sold out so quickly that a second had to be added the following night.

The logic, if there is any, is that Elvis never wrote his own material, so why not cover a few that he never got around to recording? As a piece of nostalgic wish-fulfilment it had its attractions. The King hit the stage with a tough-sounding rock band and gave us the Presley we would all prefer to remember - raunchy, leather-clad Elvis rather than the bloated Las Vegas Elvis.

Surprisingly the audience was young and studentish, many of them not even born when Presley died in 1977. Brown himself was only ten at the time, but has learnt to play his part stylishly. The more unlikely the cover, the better he carried off the joke. A version of *No Woman No Cry* that blandly segued into *Can't Help Falling in Love* was pointless, for it was all too possible to imagine the real Presley of later years stripping Bob Marley's classic of its dignity. But Presley would surely never have sung *My Division's Love Will Tear Us Apart*, Thin Lizzy's *Whiskey in the Jar* or Hendrix's *Voodoo Child*, which made Brown's renderings genuinely witty.

The King is a lot more fun than a night down the pub with a karaoke machine. What his success says about the state of modern music is another matter.

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The rapidly expanding City office of this leading international US firm continues to enjoy impressive growth and now seeks a charismatic partner to lead the property department. The firm already boasts an enviable client base, and is keen to capitalise on its existing key US relationships. The ideal candidate will therefore be expected to build upon these contacts and demonstrate the type of motivational and marketing skills necessary to launch this new initiative. (Ref: 25077)

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TAX

SUS RATES

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PROPERTY

FROM £54,000

The property department of this innovative and exciting City firm is seeking to recruit three property assistants with 1-4 years' solid commercial experience. Having a high quality client base, the successful candidates can expect a broad based and interesting caseload. The firm's excellent training and competitive salary and benefits package make this a rewarding opportunity for junior lawyers seeking to move up the career ladder. (Ref: 25444)

NORTH

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

LEEDS

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CORPORATE & 2

MANCHESTER

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IT

MANCHESTER/LEEDS

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CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION

LEEDS

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As the law lords prepare to return to the Pinochet case, two QCs examine the issues raised by Lord Hoffmann's actions



Lord Hoffmann and Justice: "Bias — partiality — must connote something more than preconceptions, or prejudices," writes Sir Louis Blom-Cooper

Bias, prejudice and the Pinochet case

Not for years has an issue so dominated talk in the Temple and divided the talkers so deeply as the rights and wrongs of the Pinochet affair. But the central issue of whether heads of state are immune for acts of state considered by the international community to be heinous crimes is not up for debate here.

That will be for the House of Lords appellate committee at the rehearing of the case next Monday. The hearing follows the sentencing of the original ruling by three to two, leaving General Pinochet any immunity.

In the meantime, there are disturbing features about the procedure for disclosure by judges of potential conflicts of interest and the law's approach to what is — often glibly — described as bias on the part of decision-makers. Normally in litigation, a party to a dispute may perceive a disadvantage to itself in the judge (a judge) assigned to the case. This occurs mostly at the trial stage, rarely does it arise on appeal because appeal court judges are not the primary fact-finders. The party perceived prejudiced will apply for the trial judge to stand down and be replaced if the case of bias is made good.

Often an appointed judge withdraws disclosure of a possible conflict of interest and sets the parties' reactions. Of course interest is not such a source of perturbation; the party readily acknowledges that it will not affect the judge's judicial approach to the case and does not seek his or her removal. Occasionally, though, the

The judiciary's approach to bias by decision-makers poses disturbing questions, says Sir Louis Blom-Cooper

judge will remove himself. Mr Justice Frankfurter of the US Supreme Court once stood down in a case involving the validity of the musical output over the address systems of the public buses in Washington DC. So disturbing did the judge find the imposed music that he felt he could not remain unaffected by his personal distaste for the transport company's activities. Had Lord Hoffmann perceived himself to be similarly placed, he would have disqualified himself or, having disclosed his association with Amnesty International, asked if the parties objected to his sitting in judgment.

The objectors, if any, would have been the Pinochet supporters. If they knew of Lord Hoffmann's connection at the time of Amnesty's intervention, they might have thought it wise to forgo any objection. After all, they had the judgment of Lord Bingham of

Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, and his two colleagues in their favour and may have been confident of keeping their winnings.

But what about the party that might conceivably gain some advantage from having a friend on the bench? When Amnesty International applied to intervene in the proceedings before the law lords, presumably it was then (or soon after) aware that Lord Hoffmann was to sit. What advantage it might thereby gain, were not its lawyers obliged to disclose their client's link with Lord Hoffmann? I think so, and I speak as a founder member of Amnesty in 1961. Maybe the law lords think so, too. Certainly such disclosure would have avoided the bias issue clouding the proceedings. It may be that Amnesty and its lawyers thought there was no issue of bias. After all, it might be assumed (rightly, one hopes) that all our most senior judges would privately sub-

scribe to the aims of Amnesty International.

Lord Hoffmann was only more transparently overt about his support than his brother judges. Therein lies the rub. Are we not all confusing preconceptions with bias, only the latter evoking any sense of judicial impropriety?

We are all born with predispositions. The process of education and socialisation creates attitudes that affect each one of us in judging situations, attitudes that precede reasoning in particular instances and which, by definition, are prejudices. Without acquired preconceptions, life could not go on. Were these prejudgments, or habits, absent and the individual obliged to treat every event as a precedent presenting wholly novel problems, he or she would go mad.

Bias — in other words, partiality — must connote something more than preconceptions (or prejudices). To be biased is deliberately to take on an attitude that is in a different dimension to the essential characteristic of the sensible human being. But preconceptions may be perceived, rightly or wrongly by the reasonable onlooker, as indicating bias.

Originally, of course, disclosure by judges in private litigation was confined to their pecuniary interests. It is easier to identify a relative financial interest than it is to discern a pertinent political or social attitude.

A civilised society should assume that its senior judges will all have the aptitude and attitude, when sitting in judgment on fellow human beings, of recognising their preconcep-

tions and applying the law as they understand it, "without fear or favour".

By that criteria, Lord Hoffmann, by his formal link with Amnesty International, had displayed publicly his preconceptions in the area of human rights and civil liberties, but not in the context of the instant litigation.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper is the co-author, with Professor Gavin Drewry, of *Final Appeal: A Study of the House of Lords in its Judicial Capacity* (Clarendon Press).

Should a judge have outside interests?

Two weeks ago, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, commented that it was "in the highest degree unfortunate" that the law lords had to reopen the 3-2 decision that General Pinochet was not entitled to immunity from extradition to Spain. There was the appearance of bias by Lord Hoffmann, one of the law lords in the majority, who had failed to declare his links with Amnesty International, a party to the appeal. The Lord Chancellor suggested that there was no point in "crying over spilt milk" but that it was necessary to "put procedures in place to ensure that this does not happen again".

The law lords should recognise the need for such procedures. After all, as Lord Hoffmann himself observed in another judgment in December, there are a number of "cases in which one feels that a slight change in the composition of the Appellate Committee would have set the law on a different course". The new procedures should be based on four main principles.

The first is that judges should not be required to avoid outside interests. It is highly desirable that our judges play a part in communal activities, displaying (and encouraging other lawyers to display) a sense of civic responsibility by commitment to good causes. As the great American judge Benjamin Cardozo emphasised: "The great tides and currents which engulf the rest of men do not turn aside in their course and pass the judges by."

Today's law lords should not be required to follow the example of one of their predecessors as reported by Shimon Shetret in *Judges on Trial* (1976) — who was so concerned about avoiding any hint of partiality that "since his appointment as a High Court judge he had never cast a vote in a general election". The quality of the bench, and of public life in general, would be severely diminished were it to become a condition of appointment that judges should agree to monastic exclusion from commitment to any controversial cause.

The second principle is that the personal interests of the judge should be declared. To enable the parties to decide whether to object to a particular judge hearing the case, to reduce the risk of allegations of bias and to encourage judges to recognise the need to keep an open mind, transparency is necessary in relation to any factor which links the judge to any party or witness or issue in the case.

The third principle is that the general interests and attitudes of the judge do not make it inappropriate for that judge to hear the case unless he or she is incapable of deciding the case

fairly and objectively. Prior beliefs and opinions do not disqualify a judge who is able and willing to consider the case with an open mind.

An extreme example of this principle in action was the conviction of Adolf Eichmann by the Israeli District Court of war crimes and crimes against the Jewish people. The Supreme Court rejected his argument on appeal in 1962 that the reactions of any Jewish judge to the Holocaust meant that the court was "incapable of giving the appellant an objective trial". The Supreme Court agreed with the District Court that "once this case has been brought before us, it becomes our duty to control even these emotions when we sit in judgment". That is what being a judge demands.

The fourth principle is that, however confident the judge may be of an ability to decide the case fairly and objectively, a specific judicial link with the parties may be so close that the appearance of bias makes the involvement of that judge inappropriate in the particular case.

A decision of Lord Chancellor Cottenham was quashed by the House of Lords in 1852 because he was a shareholder in a company that was a party to the action. In Texas in 1925, the entire membership of the state Supreme Court excused itself from hearing a case involving an organisation known as Woodmen of the World. All the judges were members, and so the Governor appointed a special court of three women (no doubt in the confident expectation that such an organisation would not admit women into membership). In 1994 the Supreme Court of Arkansas held that a judge should not have authorised the release of her boyfriend from custody.

As Lord Irvine of Lairg pointed out, the unfortunate experience of the Pinochet case makes it necessary to improve judicial procedures. But the concept of bias raises complex questions about the nature of adjudication. We must be careful not to neuter our judges by deterring them from involvement in communal activities. We should recognise that links with the parties raise greater concerns about the appearance of bias than prior expressions of judicial opinion. And we should accept that impartiality means an open mind, not a mind which has given no prior thought to the issues. As the American judge Jerome Frank said, "if we define 'bias' to mean 'the total absence of preconceptions in the mind of the judge, then no one has ever had a fair trial and no one ever will'".

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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A' early day motion by solicitor-MP Andrew Dmore calling for the sopping of QCs is popular among law backbenchers. So far the motion, which argues that no Bill to modernise justice would be complete unless it put an end to the "expensive and anachronistic" silk system, has received 82 signatures since it was tabled just before Christmas.

NEW YEAR, new image. Sir Richard Sutt, head of the High Court Chancery division, calls in the Inner Temple yearbook for an end to wigs which — he says — "have become positively damaging to the image of the civil justice system." And Galdine Clark, a barrister changing

chambers, to 4/5. Gray's Inn Square, has put out a notice more like an invitation to a fashion shoot, showing herself swinging along, trouser suit blowing in the wind.

□ GEOFF HOON must be suffering from a sense of déjà vu. For the second time in six months, the deputy to the Lord Chancellor has been poised for promotion to Paymaster General, only to have the chance snatched away at the last minute. When Hoon was last tipped to replace Geoffrey Robinson at the Treasury, Gordon Brown persuaded Blair to keep Robinson. This time Robinson's resignation put the promotion back on the agenda. But the post went to Dawn Primarolo amid reports that Lord

Irvine of Lairg wanted to keep Hoon to steer through his legal aid reforms.

□ CONDITIONAL FEE work is taking off. New Court Chambers will hold a seminar at Middle Temple Hall on Thursday from 6.30pm on all aspects — insurance, risk assessment and case studies (details: 0171-583 5123) — and on February 1 a "roadshow" takes place at the Law Society sponsored by Medical Litigation on the growing role of insurers in medical "no win, no fee" claims (details: Geoffrey Hall 01494-792 621).

□ CHAMBERS, the Radio 4 legal comedy by Inns of Court School of law lecturer Clive Coleman, is recording a new series at Broadcasting House on February 21. Tickets from 0171-765 4137 or e-mail radio.ticket@bbc.co.uk

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For further information, please contact: Mr. Michael McGrogan, a qualified lawyer, is currently seeking a senior lawyer to join his team. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the firm's legal affairs, including the preparation of legal documents, the management of the firm's legal budget, and the representation of the firm in court. The successful candidate will also be responsible for the management of the firm's legal staff and for the preparation of legal reports for the firm's clients.

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Litigation: will it be a free-for-all?

Compensation culture rules in America but not here — at least not yet, says Gary Slapper

Trends, films and food — whatever happens in America inevitably reaches our shores, even in the legal system. Yet although press reports show a rise in high-profile compensation claims, we have not yet fallen prey to the tricky and dangerous kind of litigation that has engulfed America, where even teachers applying sunscreen to their pupils have been sued by parents.

The evidence suggests that we are holding fast against this style of litigation: we have been bringing fewer legal actions each year. Cases such as those of Luke Ratcliff and Henry White, though from quite different walks of life, have both featured recently in what some observers have seen as a developing pattern of judicial decisions to steer us away from becoming a compensation-obsessed culture by blocking paths to the courts.

In 1994, Luke Ratcliff was a 19-year-old student at Harper Adams Agricultural College in Newport, Shropshire. One night he went out drinking with friends and, after about four pints, climbed over a college wall and dived into a swimming pool at 2.30am, hitting his head on the bottom. Serious head injuries left him in a wheelchair.

Earlier this month the Court of Appeal ruled that he was to blame for his injuries and could not expect compensation from the college for not having taken greater steps to prevent him falling into the pool. Lord Justice

Stewart-Smith said that Mr Ratcliff was aware of the risk and willingly accepted it. In the same week as the Court of Appeal's decision, the House of Lords gave its judgment in the case of police officers who were suing over the Hillsborough football stadium disaster in 1989 in which 96 people were killed and another 700 injured.

The Lords ruled that Henry White, and other police officers who suffered psychiatric injury as a result of being in the aftermath, were not entitled to recover damages

'What is one man's frivolous litigation is another's test case'

against the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police, who had admitted negligence by his force.

The police officers argued, however, that as victims of an admitted tort, they were owed compensation.

Rejecting their arguments, Lord Steyn noted: "We do not live in a Utopia; we live in a practical world where the tort system imposes limits to the classes of claims that rank for consideration."

This recalls the dictum of Chief Justice Cardozo, a renowned American judge who, in 1931, made the definitive statement in warning against any new law that would "open the floodgates" and inundate courts with claims. He said that law should not be framed to bur-

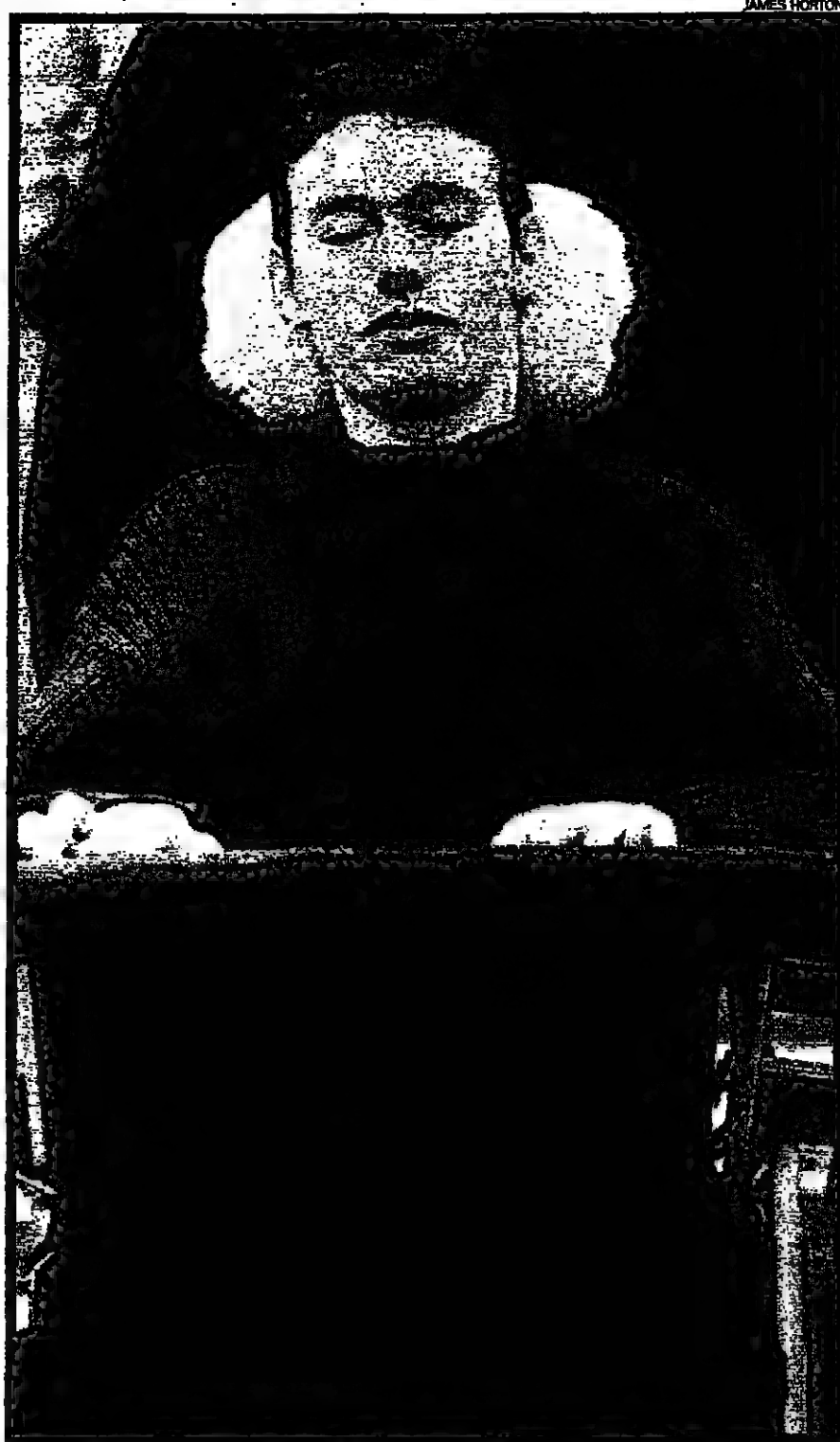
den possible defendants with "liability in an indeterminate amount for an indeterminate time to an indeterminate class".

Anyone who applauded decisions such as those in the swimming pool or Hillsborough cases on the basis that they will deter a growing body of writ-happy citizens has no reason to be concerned. The *Judicial Statistics*, published by the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD), reports that 153,624 writs and originating summonses were issued in 1995 in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court — where all the main alleged wrongs against people and property are heard — a fall of 2 per cent since 1994. The LCD records a further fall: 121,446 actions were begun in the QBD in 1997, 15 per cent down on 1996.

This pattern is reflected in county court summonses. The *Judicial Statistics* for 1995 notes a decrease in the work of the county courts since 1992. The 1995 figure of 2,445,248 claims entered continued a downward trend and was 8 per cent less than in 1994. The 1997 report notes the "steady decrease in the work of the county courts in recent years", and a further 5 per cent drop in actions to 2,208,878.

Nick Armstrong, a solicitor with Irwin Mitchell, has noted that, despite the fall in recorded actions, the insurance industry states that the number of claims made is rising.

The Medical Defence Union reports a recent rise of 30



Luke Ratcliff at the High Court after unsuccessfully suing his college

per cent in annual payouts, but as Dr Armstrong observes, that might reflect merely a rise in the quantum of damages per claim, rather than a rise in the number of actions.

Dr Armstrong argues that it is in the public interest for challenging and novel ac-

tions to be brought. "What is one man's frivolous litigation is another's test case," he argues, "and what is one man's litigation explosion is another's access to justice."

Modernising Justice, the Government's recent White Paper, says that "the legal system should be for every-

one" and that it wishes to bring about "a significant increase in access to justice". If this aim is achieved, it will surely follow that society becomes more litigious.

Dr Slapper is director of the Open University's Law Programme.

A firm bond of partners

Like a modern marriage, a merger is hard to forge, says Edward Fennell

Royal marriages and law firm mergers have much in common. They don't always work out and pre-engagement negotiations can drag on. Nonetheless, the word from well-informed sources last week was that the former big-name firms Theodore Goddard and Richards Butler, perhaps inspired by the example of Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones, will be announcing their engagement by the end of the month.

Peter Kavanagh, the managing director of Theodore Goddard, tried to play down the mounting excitement, saying: "It is essential that a merger of this kind has a high level of support, so we are taking a lot of time to explain to partners what it means to them as individuals as well as what it signifies for the business as a whole. At this stage I cannot give a date for any formal announcement."

Mr Kavanagh is prudent to be circumspect in his comments. These talks started out as a three-way merger with Denton Hall as the third player. Back in October, Denton Hall decided to pull out due to difficulties in meshing together the various offices in Hong Kong.

All three firms used to be high in the league table of size. They have dropped down the ladder but merger negotiations have to traverse dangerous territory, James Dallas, the chairman of Denton Hall, says: "Because of the growth of international offices, merger discussions are much more complex than a decade ago. Rather than just a couple of London offices, you may be trying to match half a dozen offices worldwide and that could be very complicated."

Such proved to be the case dur-

ing last year's proposed link-up between Wilde Sapte and Arthur Andersen. There were early signs that Wilde Sapte's Paris partners were not happy with the deal.

By the time negotiations were broken off, several key Wilde Sapte partners had left and Arthur Andersen had received a severe blow to its strategic plans. Andersen admits that it has given up any thought of a large-scale merger with a law firm in London, despite the fact that it had declared this to be its strategic route forward.

One merger we can expect to see consummated later this year, however, is between Beachcroft Stanleys and Wansboroughs Willey Hargrave.

This extended engagement process has benefited from the political skills of Lord Hunt of Tanworth, the former Cabinet minister under Margaret Thatcher, who has been able to bring his formidable charm and powers of negotiation to the deal.

As a merger between a medium-sized London practice and a medium-sized regional firm, it has not had to wrestle with complex multi-office managers.

As Lord Hunt says: "A diligent survey revealed to us overwhelmingly that we had to go national. So we wanted to find a firm that mirrored our strength but was outside London. We were delighted when we met Wansboroughs."

Above all, though, the partners of the firms have developed into good friends during their courtship. And that, as Prince Edward points out, is pretty important for a successful marriage.



"It was love at first sight when they saw each other's turnovers"

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£50,000 package
Top international contracts lawyer looking to work in professional services based in Central London in a top organisation with excellent prospects. The right individual will come from a top City private practice or be in-house already. Must have strong interpersonal skills. Language useful. 5 years plus experience. Ref: T91100

The listed information, in complete confidence, please contact: Nick Creed@zmb.co.uk or Debbie Officelli@zmb.co.uk. Ref: 0171 523 3822 (0171 924 4672 evenings/weekends) or 0171 523 3823. E-mail: nick. Creed@zmb.co.uk or debbie. Officelli@zmb.co.uk. For information on temporary positions, please contact: Caroline Golding@zmb.co.uk or Presley@zmb.co.uk. Fax 0171 523 3823. E-mail: caroline. Golding@zmb.co.uk or Presley@zmb.co.uk. Alternatively please write to ZMB, Indusbury, 728 Chiswick, 72 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL.

QD In-House Legal
37-41 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4JH
Web: www.qdgroup.com

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ALLEN & OVERY

Training & Development Manager - Banking & Finance Law

At Allen & Overy, one of the world's leading finance practices, we like to make sure that all our lawyers are fully trained at an early stage in their careers.

In 1998, in an unprecedented double, Allen & Overy was judged Best Global Law Firm at The Lawyer Awards and Law Firm of the Year at the Legal Business Awards. Our success is the result of a combination of factors, the most crucial of which is the continuing success of our clients.

With over 400 lawyers spread over a network of 20 offices worldwide, you could say that our specialist finance training team has its work cut out. As a measure of the importance we attach to our training function, we are seeking to invest in an additional member of the team, reporting to our Senior Finance Training Manager, to assist in the development of programmes for all levels of lawyer, from trainee to partner.

Your responsibilities in this role are likely to include devising, designing and implementing new programmes to meet the training needs of lawyers based in the London finance practice, as well as the updating and reshaping of established programmes to suit changing needs.

If you have a background in finance, whether as a lawyer or as a banker, are committed to training, enjoy writing, are creative, energetic and enthusiastic and have the confidence and ability to work effectively with lawyers at all levels, we want to hear from you.

To find out more about this high-profile and valued role - and the generous benefits package that goes with it - please contact Yvonne Smyth or Debbie Cochrane on 0171 523 3838 or 01923 855734 (evenings/weekends) or write to them at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL. Email: yvonne.smyth@zarakgroup.com

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Talented legal professional required for broadly based role within this highly successful regionally based Society.

THE COMPANY

- Ambitious, successful Society fiercely committed to independence. Environment of constant improvement.
- Impressive record of growth in customer base and profits. Highly competitive range of products and services.
- Major investment in Head Office facility to deliver leading edge systems and working practices.

THE POSITION

- Full responsibility to Chief Executive for all company secretarial functions. Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and Codes of Practice.
- Provide legal input and technical advice on systems and procedures to improve productivity and cost containment.

Please send full cv, stating salary, ref LD200549/R/T, to NBS, Yorkshire House, Greek Street, Leeds LS1 5SX

Fax 0113 243 2339 Email nathalie@nbs-selection.co.uk Tel 0113 245 3830

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Help us to be a responsive regulator

The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra) was set up under the Pensions Act 1995.

Opra aims to be a responsive regulator, helping to ensure that occupational pension schemes comply with the law and that the interests of scheme members are protected.

Opra is committed to providing a range of guidance to all those involved with occupational pension schemes, from scheme members to pensions professionals.

www.opra.gov.uk

opra
occupational pensions regulatory authority
"...protecting pensions"

Pensions Lawyer - Brighton

salary £34,000 - £43,000 pa

The policy and guidance team at Opra now needs a dedicated pensions lawyer to help develop internal and external policy. We are looking for someone with excellent written and oral communication skills. Understanding the processes and practical issues involved in managing both a pension scheme and regulating schemes is also essential.

You should have a minimum of two years PQE with a pensions law bias and you must be PC literate. Reporting to the Solicitor to the Board and working closely with the policy and guidance team and their manager, this is a unique opportunity to gain experience with a front-line regulator. We have non-smoking offices close to Brighton railway station and occupational pension benefits.

Please send your CV, quoting reference 99/001, to Margaret Cramp, Personnel Manager, Opra, Invicta House, Trafalgar Place, Brighton BN1 4DW. Alternatively you can e-mail us at margaret.cramp@opra.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is Monday 25 January 1999. Interviews for this position will take place during February. Please indicate any dates you are not available.

Industry & private practice

Anglo-Euro lawyers

The day is coming when English lawyers will be able to practise on a European scale. Already our largest firms are building up their networks, creating alliances to spread up the rate of expansion. Euro-directives are in place which in due course will allow lawyers to practise anywhere within the EU. Wherever you look, there are signs of integration. And now the arrival of the euro. After decades of an evolving common market, we're seeing a real United States of Europe - Euroland taking shape. The European Bank, the political structures, European laws, the increasingly unified European economy, it will not be long before we have the Euro-lawyer, too. And fortunately, London is Europe's legal centre. No other capital can begin to compare. English lawyers will be in great demand throughout the continent. These developments are reflected in the number of vacancies we see for lawyers with languages and with a knowledge of European countries. There's an upsurge in demand for attorneys or small teams with specialist expertise in foreign jurisdictions - Anglo-German, Anglo-French, Anglo-Spanish, Anglo-Italian. For English lawyers with a good corporate practice who want to make more of their foreign connections, the opportunities have never been better.

Michael Chambers

Our directory is available at £45 from Biblos: Tel: 01403 710971.

Industry

Engineering lawyer

Commercial lawyer with min 5 years' experience for key operating division of major engineering group. Sound commercial acumen and expertise of handling agreements in electrical/mechanical engineering sector preferred.

Hi-tech

Lawyer 3-5 yrs' exp. with some understanding of the hi-tech sector, to join int'l electronics co and handle mixed comm case-load including advising on strategic business matters.

Property

Telecoms co seeks lawyers to work closely with project managers/surveyors handling site acquisitions. Senior candidates returning from career break will be considered.

London & Overseas

Researcher - writer

One vacancy left on research team for Chambers Directory. Six month contract. Possible future career in publishing. Ring Reena on 0171 778 1524

Training professional support

City Leading City firm seeks solicitor with at least 3 years' corporate/commercial finance experience for professional support role with strong emphasis on training.

Litigation

German speaking litigator (English mother tongue) sought for mixed general insurance liability claims. Insurance experience an advantage.

Environment/planning

City Leading medium-sized firm seeks NQ-3 year qualified solicitor for both regulatory and transactional environmental work together with planning law advice and lobbying.

Seville House, 23 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HL
Tel: 0171 606 8844 Fax: 0171 600 1793
e-mail: info@chambersrecruitment.co.uk

Sonia Royner, Marwen Lewis, Deborah Kirkman, Stuart Morton

Midlands

Commercial lawyer with min 5 years' experience for key operating division of major financial services consultancy and advise on full range of capital tax planning. Full training will be given where necessary.

Dynamic lawyer

City Young fast-moving company needs a commercial lawyer who enjoys a pressured but rewarding environment to work with sales team negotiating international contracts.

Construction & property

London Lawyer min 4 yrs' exp to join construction company and handle non-contentious construction work plus acquisitions, strategic land management and day to day property issues.

David Woolfson, Paul Thomas, Emma Riley

Corporate

French speaker Marvellous opportunity for 1-2 year qualified solicitor with fluent French to use their language skills. M&A and general commercial agreements. City-based.

Insurance

City 1-3 yr qual solicitor sought by major practice to assist leading practitioner with high value mixed liability claims. Excellent opportunity to join one of the City's premier insurance teams.

EC/competition

City Leading firm seeks competition solicitor with c. 3 years' exp. Join this award-winning department for a wide range of work including UK and EC merger clearances.

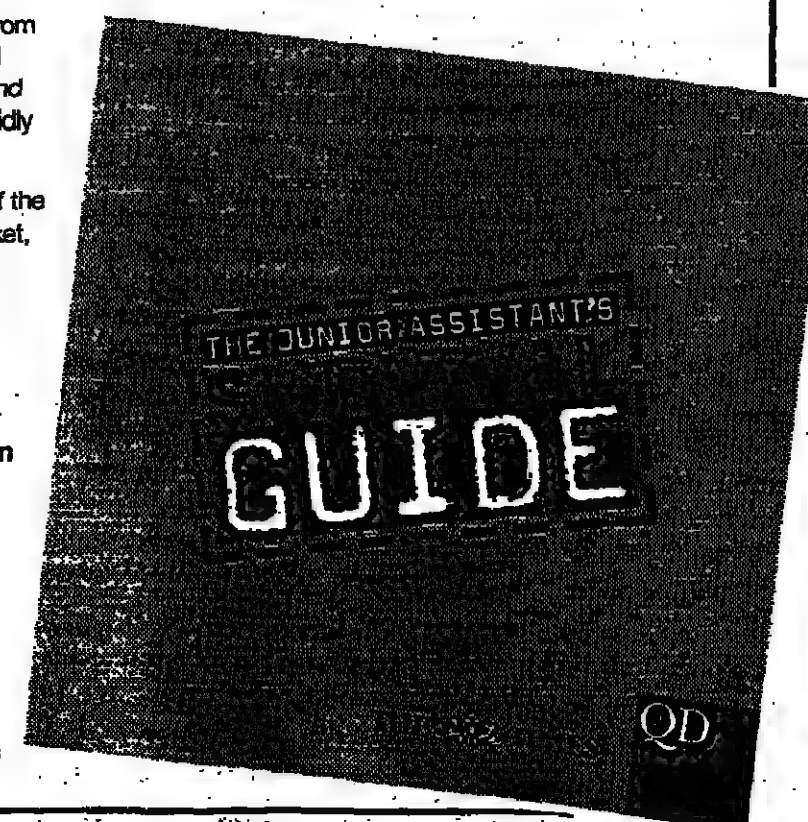
Company/commercial

Channel Islands Excellent quality case-load of general commercial including acquisitions on offer to high calibre solicitor minimum 2 years' exp. Premier package attracting basic rate tax.

CHAMBERS
PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

QD Legal
37-41 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4JH
Tel: 0171 403 0182
Confidential fax 0171 831 0184
E-mail: qdl@qdgroup.co.uk
stuartm@qdgroup.co.uk

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Vancouver



The Guide is aimed at solicitors from newly to three years qualified and features a wide range of topics and advice on how to survive in a rapidly changing legal environment.

Issues include the current state of the legal world, the future of the market, managing your career effectively, options for assistants and tips on interviewing.

The Guide will be published on 19 January 1999. To reserve your copy, please contact Nick Shilton or Gavin Sharpe at QD Legal.

Gilbert + Tobin is recruiting in London:

Competition Law & Policy
Corporate & Commercial
Infrastructure & Utilities
Information Technology
Mergers & Acquisitions
Intellectual Property
Telecommunications
Privatisation
Litigation
Finance

www.gtlaw.com.au



LAWYERS

Gilbert + Tobin is a law firm based in Sydney, Australia. We are 11 years old and widely acknowledged as the most significant new firm to emerge in Australia in recent times. In size we are just over 200 people which includes over 100 lawyers.

We are ranked at the top of the field in all our key practice areas by various industry benchmark survey reports. Our clients include blue chip Australian companies and many multinationals. Our work, particularly in communications, spans the globe.

Our firm is young and our future is exciting. Our people are motivated, highly skilled and enthusiastic.

We are looking to recruit talented lawyers at all levels and in all areas. People interested will be Australians planning to return home within two years and English lawyers looking to permanently relocate.

We will be conducting interviews in London from 25 January to 2 February.

Applications should be in writing to Gilbert + Tobin partner, Peter Waters C/- 106 New River Head, 173 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4UR or email pwaters@gtlaw.com.au. Peter may also be contacted by mobile 0467 707 477.

STRUCTURED PRODUCTS - IN-HOUSE 1-5 Years Exp.
The structured products team of an international bank is looking for a new member. The role will involve dealing with sophisticated credit derivatives, swaps, credit linked notes and other aspects of structured finance. Are you a lawyer with such experience and ready for a challenge? Ref: 7822, 7823. Contact: Tanya Aljovics.

CAPITAL MARKETS - IN-HOUSE 3-6 Years Exp.
Major international bank needs an experienced capital markets lawyer. You will be involved in varied complex structured transactions including collateralised debt obligations, total return swaps and credit derivatives. You will also be dealing with debt products, MTP programmes and their ongoing management. An excellent opportunity for the right person. Ref: 8382. Contact: Tanya Aljovics.

PRINCIPAL FINANCE & SECURITISATION - IN-HOUSE 1-8 Years Exp.
Opportunities with excellent prospects exist for lawyers to join principal finance/securitisation departments of certain banks or to work in the legal/transaction management groups supporting these departments. Demand is highest at the 1-8 year qualified range and previous securitisation experience is essential. Ref: 8447, 8042. Contact: Tanya Aljovics.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - IN-HOUSE London
International bank seeks a 6-8 year qualified solicitor for a varied role. The legal team, based in London, provides legal services to all of the group's operations in 11 jurisdictions worldwide and has a high profile and reputation within the group. Very attractive salary and benefits package. Ref: 8387. Contact: Paul Remondino.

COMMERCIAL/FINANCIAL SERVICES - IN-HOUSE London
A highly profitable Trust/Corporate Services company seeks a lawyer 1-3 years qualified for a role which involves a lot of interaction with their clientele of high net worth individuals and private companies. This company is expanding and offers excellent career opportunities, including the scope to move out of law. Ref: 8088. Contact: Paul Remondino.

PRIVATE CLIENT - IN-HOUSE London/Overseas
Several opportunities have arisen for private client lawyers to make a move in-house to work in the Private Banking/Trust Company environment. Although you will still be providing legal/commercial advice to an external clientele the nature of the role and environment are quite different from Private Practice. Ref: 8430, 8283, 8286. Contact: Paul Remondino.

MEDIA/BROADCASTING - IN-HOUSE London
Leading broadcaster has a challenging position for an ambitious lawyer with previous media experience (over 4-7 years PQE). The diverse role will include production and distribution work and will be highly commercial in focus. The successful applicant will have strong negotiation and drafting skills and enjoy working in a team culture. Ref: 7327. Contact: Richard Genn.

TELECOMS LAWYER - IN-HOUSE S.W. London
Leading Telecoms provider offering an innovative and diverse range of communication solutions are seeking an ambitious lawyer with at least two years telecoms experience. The position offers a range of good quality work within an established and professional legal department. Ref: 8057. Contact: Richard Genn.

IT LAWYER - IN-HOUSE London
International IT company with particular strengths in outsourcing and system integration services require a further lawyer to join their legal department. The successful applicant will be a strong negotiator and drafter with a commercial focus (over 4-6 years PQE). Excellent opportunity to advance your career with a growing company. Ref: 8083. Contact: Richard Genn.



Hughes-Castell

International Legal Recruitment Consultants

London Office: 87 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1BD. Tel: 0171 242 0303 Fax: 0171 242 7111
Hong Kong Office: 701 and 702 East Town Building, 41 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.
New York • Chicago • Boston • Atlanta • San Francisco • Palo Alto • Sydney • Melbourne • Brisbane • Wellington

PENSIONS 5 Excellent
A well known and highly profitable City pension firm wishes to hire a department and a name in pensions. This firm is aware of the reality of pension in this area and is willing to pay OVER THE ODDS to achieve its aim. An excellent opportunity to make your name and your career. Ref: 5608. Contact: Aida Martin.

CONSTRUCTION 1-5 Years' POE
Top 20 City firm needs stars to join its leading 22 partner construction department. Will consider commercial lawyers wanting to move into this field. You will be working in lovely offices, dealing with the hottest issues and the best clients and earning a first rate salary. Who could ask for more? Ref: 3331. Contact: Aida Martin.

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LITIGATION 2-4 Years' POE
Fluent German speaker needed to join a highly regarded 6 partner commercial litigation department. The position has a strong international focus and clients include major UK, German, Austrian and Swiss companies. The firm is established and hard working yet friendly. Ref: 3333. Contact: Aida Martin.

EUROPEAN LAWYERS 1-2 Years' POE Plus
French, under German lawyers with at least 2-3 years corporate experience are sought by this go-ahead international team in highly profitable and dynamic City practice. Much of the European based transactions are on behalf of European corporates and IT/telecoms companies. Strong academics and a head for business a must. Travel if desired. Ref: 4330. Contact: Aida Martin.

JUNIOR EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT NQ - 1 Year POE
If you are currently with a top 20 firm and looking to downsize but retain the quality, read on. Highly respected in the employment sector, this medium sized City practice has a thriving 6 lawyer employment team handling a broad spectrum of high profile non-contentious and contentious matters. Excellent communication skills a prerequisite. Ref: 8562. Contact: Aida Martin.

FAMILY 2-4 Years' POE
Mid level assistant with particular experience in ancillary relief matters is sought by extremely friendly and unstuffy City practice with successful family department. The work is almost exclusively privately paid so a background in such is preferable. The applicant will be groomed for partnership. Ref: 8560. Contact: Aida Martin.

DEFAMATION 1-3 Years' POE
This is an outstanding opportunity to join one of the most dynamic and successful entertainment firms in London to work with a universally acknowledged star in this field. Recent work has included many headline grabbing victories. You will work in a close-knit team and be offered a high degree of responsibility and client contact. Ref: 8275. Contact: Pauline Gattis.

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION 1-5 Years' POE
It is not every day that seriously good immigration jobs like this crop up. The firm is young, small-medium size, City - with an outstanding reputation for employment law (headed by a leading light) and also known for its excellence in immigration. You will join a team of two and enjoy all aspects of immigration work (with emphasis on executive immigration/work permits). Ref: 7483. Contact: Pauline Gattis.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PLANNING 0-4 Years' POE
This City firm is a leader in this field and seeks a junior solicitor to join its friendly and supportive planning and environmental team of four. Work includes advice on all areas of UK and EU environmental law (both transnational and "land alone" work) and also on planning applications. Ref: 8484. Contact: Pauline Gattis.

Open.... Senior Lawyer

British
Interactive
Broadcasting

British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB) is an independent company set up to deliver digital interactive services to UK television viewers. With the backing of four companies which have the most direct and relevant experience of the technologies involved (BSkyB, BT, HSBG and Matsushita), the launch of the branded Open.... service in Spring 1999 will enable consumers to interact via their TV with services such as home shopping, home banking, information, e-mail, entertainment and education. In the next millennium, Open.... will be the face of TV. You can be part of it.

Central London

The legal aspects of this fast moving media and service driven business requires a legal adviser of the highest calibre. The successful candidate will ideally have the following profile:

- ◆ At least five years PQE gained in practice or industry.
- ◆ Heavyweight corporate and commercial transactional experience as a team leader.
- ◆ Media experience and a particular knowledge of the relevant regulatory regime is advantageous but not essential.
- ◆ Sound commercial judgment and the ability to work accurately to tight deadlines.

£ Excellent

- ◆ Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, open-minded and flexible.

This position offers an excellent remuneration package, career prospects and the opportunity to play an integral role in the future of the UK's most comprehensive national interactive TV service.

Interested candidates should contact Guy Moran on 0171 269 2231 or write to him at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN, fax 0171 405 2936, quoting reference 464740. e-mail: guy.moran@michaelpage.com

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Michael Page and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

Michael Page

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Brockbank Insurance Litigator

Brockbank Syndicate Management Ltd is an innovative Lloyd's managing agency whose syndicates write in excess of £400 million of insurance and reinsurance premium across the full range of non-life business. Brockbank is part of XL Capital Ltd which, as at 31 August 1998, has assets of \$9.9 billion and shareholders' equity of \$4.5 billion.

London

An exciting opportunity has now arisen for a high calibre insurance litigator to join the company and develop their knowledge and understanding of the insurance and reinsurance business. As part of a small legal team, you will become an integral part of a leading player in the international insurance market. You will work closely with underwriters, adjusters and the claims department advising and structuring policies and new products for a number of different classes of insurance in areas as diverse as fire, flood, stock and space. The company has a collegiate culture and this has created a team orientated environment where lawyers are encouraged to take a pro-active role in the commercial process.

Your profile:

- ◆ Insurance litigator with 3-5 years' post qualification experience.
- ◆ A self-starter who has a pro-active style and a keen interest in the insurance business.

£ Excellent

- ◆ Outgoing and flexible personality who will enjoy the diversity of this environment.
- ◆ Reinsurance and/or US experience would be desirable, but is not necessary for the right person.

This represents a unique opportunity for an insurance litigator to enjoy a true commercial role in an organisation with exceptional growth potential.

For further information in complete confidence, please call Guy Moran or Catherine Brown on 0171 269 2231 or write to them enclosing your current CV and salary details at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London, WC2B 5LN or fax 0171 405 2936. e-mail: guy.moran@michaelpage.com

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Asset Management Lawyer



ABN AMRO is a major global bank with a strong international focus. With almost 65,000 employees and a global presence in 71 countries, the bank's main competitive advantage lies in belonging to an extensive worldwide network, which enables it to offer a wide range of products and services in the fields of both commercial and investment banking. With total assets of US\$414 billion, ABN AMRO ranks as the 4th largest bank in Europe and the 8th largest bank in the world. The London business of the bank continues to grow and prestigious new premises are to be occupied during 1999.

London

£ Investment Banking Package

The London Legal Department provides general legal and secretariat services to the Asset Management Group, and now requires a lawyer to be dedicated to this business. The Asset Management Group is 80 strong and works in three main areas: management and marketing of Retail funds and management of Fixed Income Institutional and Private Client mandates. The successful candidate will work across all of these areas, carrying out a wide range of work including reviewing and negotiating investment management contracts, custody agreements and counterparty documentation such as ISDA's, ISMA's and terms of business. Day-to-day liaison with the compliance function will be required and there will be involvement in new product development. Knowledge of UK and offshore collective investment schemes is essential, whilst some knowledge of pension law would be useful.

Your profile:

- ◆ 2-4 years relevant post qualification experience.
- ◆ Currently working in an in-house asset management team or within a specialist department of a premier law firm.

- ◆ Adaptable and flexible with the tact, diplomacy and strength of character to deal with senior management and business people at all levels.
- ◆ Confident and with sufficient commercial acumen to work calmly under pressure to meet tight deadlines.

This is an outstanding opportunity to work closely with the business in one of Europe's largest investment banking organisations. The remuneration package will reflect ABN AMRO's policy of rewarding excellence. If you would like to find out more about this opportunity please contact Catherine Brown, the exclusively retained consultant on 0171 269 2484 or send your CV to her at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN, fax 0171 405 2936. Please quote ref 465687. e-mail: catherinebrown@michaelpage.com

This appointment is being handled exclusively by Michael Page Legal and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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COMPANY SECRETARY

North
West

Stanley Leisure plc

Excellent
Package

Stanley Leisure is a major force in the UK leisure industry. Fully listed, with a turnover in excess of £400 million, the Group has generated substantial recent growth both organically and by acquisition. The sector offers significant future potential not only for the Group's existing businesses but also for complementary activities. As a result, the Group has a requirement to identify a high calibre individual, as Company Secretary, to contribute to the business within this challenging environment.

THE POSITION

- Reporting to the Board of Directors, this role will be responsible for the full range of company secretarial duties associated with a plc environment.
- Provide assistance and guidance to the Directors in their pursuit of their business objectives and play a central role in the governance of the company.
- Develop the company secretariat as a core support function adding value to the business.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Proven track record of operating as a company secretary, either as a qualified accountant, chartered secretary or with a legal qualification.
- Highly professional individual able to operate in a plc environment, demonstrating a proactive and efficient approach.
- Strong technical knowledge with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

This is an outstanding opportunity for an individual to develop their career and be part of a growing organisation.

Interested candidates should write enclosing full career details, current salary and where possible a daytime telephone number, quoting reference 2558 to Robert Berkeley, Consumer Division, Questor International, 3 Burlington Gardens, London W1X 1LE. Tel 0171 292 8300. Fax 0171 287 5457. e-mail: claire@questorint.com



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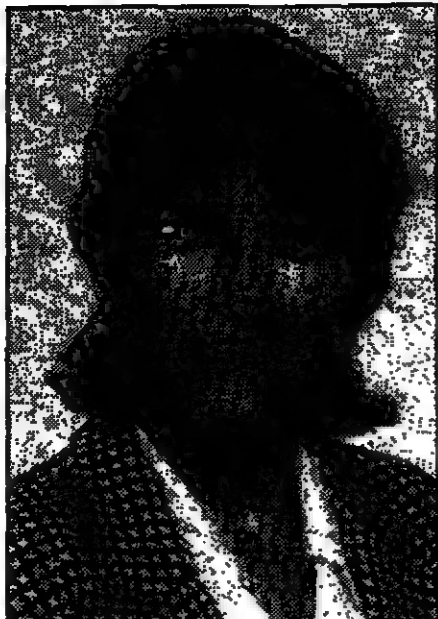
Ashursts - Pensions

Maria Stimpson has joined Ashursts' Employment and Benefits Group as partner leading the Pensions Practice and is recruiting additional solicitors, at all levels, to the pensions team.

For ambitious lawyers who would like to be involved in developing a pensions practice, this promises to be an exciting opportunity.

It will be a challenge, fun and rewarding. The success of the team will be your success.

If you would like to join a firm with a culture for developing individuals within a team atmosphere, open communication and supervision, and above all a desire that everyone should enjoy what they do, you should apply to us.



Please write enclosing your CV to Stuart Walker at Ashurst Morris Crisp, Broadwalk House, 5 Appold Street, London, EC2A 2HA.

Alternatively if you would like to discuss the opportunities within the Pensions Group please call Maria on 0171 972 7114.

CHAMBERS
BANKING & FINANCE

Standard Chartered

International Commercial Role

IT Lawyers

- City
- Banking benefits
- Overseas travel

Standard Chartered is an international banking group employing some 24,000 people in more than 40 countries. The Group focuses its activities on Africa, Asia, the Middle East and increasingly Latin America.

Standard Chartered Group Legal Department is seeking two commercial IT lawyers to join its small head office team.

Day-to-day work would encompass hardware and software procurement, development and licensing issues together with outsourcing and vendor management in an international context across the Group's various businesses.

The successful candidates (one with probably 5+ years' experience and the other with 3 years') will have gained experience in an IT law unit in private practice or the in-house legal department of a technology vendor and will have:

- excellent non-contentious IT experience (though some contentious exposure would be useful)
- a thorough grounding in IP issues
- proven ability in maintaining commercial relationships at all levels
- effective project management skills.

A highly competitive salary, bonus and full banking benefits are offered.

For further information please contact Stuart Morton or Deborah Kilmartin at Chambers Banking & Finance, 22 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HL. Telephone 0171 606 8844 Fax 0171 600 1793.

All direct or third party applications will be forwarded to Chambers Banking & Finance.

English speaking lawyer, fluent in French, wanted for international practice with leading law firm in Paris. France. Please send CV to: Mr. Armentrout, 13 Avenue Hoche, 75008 Paris. Fax: (33) 1 53 96 03 83 or e-mail: law@lalparis.com

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TAX & TRUSTS. Established Surrey firm seeks experienced solicitor for the South East. Resolved & Company (01747) 638237. Fax: (01747) 638047 (447)

CLERK TO THE GENERAL COMMISSIONERS
Division of Salford and Manchester North
The General Commissioners for the above Division intend to appoint a Clerk to take up duties in 1999 to succeed their present Clerk who is due to retire. The appointment is open to Barristers or Solicitors. The structure of Tax Appeals as well as remuneration is presently under review. Anyone interested in this appointment should write to: Mr D G Howell, 58 Manchester Road, Winton, Cheshire SK9 2JY.

TENANCY VACANCIES
An expanding young London common law set has vacancies for established practitioners in the field of Housing, Personal Injury, Family, Crime and Immigration. Enquiries, which will be treated in the strictest confidence, should be made to Box No 4618

Inland Revenue HM CUSTOMS & EXCISE

STRATEGIC TRANSFER OF THE ESTATE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR (STEPS): APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL ADVISER

Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise intend to invite tenders for the role of Legal Adviser to assist and advise them on establishing a long term contract with the private sector involving the transfer of ownership of their property assets and the provision of serviced accommodation to meet their operational needs. The two estates comprise in total 1.6 million square metres and extend to some 750 properties across the United Kingdom.

The role is expected to last for about two and a half years. Contractors will be expected to demonstrate:

- significant experience of very large scale property portfolio transactions;
- experience in international capital markets financing techniques and in particular, securitisation and of asset backed finance;
- experience of PFI/PPP;
- experience and understanding of EU procurement regulations; and
- the breadth and depth of resource with the relevant expertise and experience to meet the demands of a transaction of this size and complexity.

Suitably experienced contractors wishing to express an interest in tendering for this work are asked to complete a questionnaire, which can be obtained from:

Simon Barnicott
Inland Revenue
Estate Management Unit
PO Box 20, Castle Meadow Road
NOTTINGHAM NG2 1BA
Telephone: 0115 974 0770 Facsimile: 0115 974 0790

Contractors may be requested to clarify information provided or to submit supplementary documents before tenders are invited. The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest and completed questionnaires will be noon on 11th February 1999. Invitations to tender will be issued in early March.

Harney Westwood & Riegels

As the largest law firm in the BVI, Harney Westwood & Riegels plays a major role in the commercial and financial life of this thriving offshore jurisdiction. The firm acts for blue chip global banks, top City and international law firms and European and Far Eastern investment funds.

It is undergoing a period of steady expansion and has recruited several solicitors from leading City firms over the past few years. These lawyers have settled in well.

The excellent quality of life in the BVI is widely known. Those who have made the move have subsequently remarked upon the predominantly international nature and broad range of work on offer.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The firm has now identified the need for two further solicitors:

Corporate and Finance

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Closing date for submission of applications is 9am on Wednesday 27 January 1999.

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Lindsay insists that the decision to stand down from Super League was his alone

Spin-doctor departs with final twist in tale

When Maurice Lindsay confirmed yesterday that he would be stepping down as managing director of Super League Europe (SLE), it was with the archetypal soundbite on which he has based a reputation: "I've watched a lot of administrators in sport go on to the walking-stick stage and I was never going to do that," he said.

Twenty years ago, Lindsay learned the value of a good quote when as a new director at Wigan, who he had watched since boyhood, he made it his mission to ensure that the rugby league club, and not Wigan Athletic Football Club, led the back page of the local evening newspaper. No rugby league figure in the past two decades has gone on to hog the limelight like Maurice Patrick Lindsay.

Certainly, few sports administrators have made themselves as accessible or mastered the art of spin. His tongue has occasionally tied him in knots, but Lindsay could not have excoriated himself from such tight spots. When the media gathered yesterday at Headingley amid rumours that he might be pushed, Lindsay confirmed the unanimous support of the 14 Super League clubs and that he had approached them for a retirement date. "It's very much my decision," he announced.

Even on his way out, his reputation as the Great Survivor seemed somehow unimpaired. He intends to depart when his present contract expires at the end of the forthcoming season in October, although sooner remains a possibility. He spent more than £200,000 last month on betting pitches at Cheltenham, York, Doncaster and Haydock Park racecourses. During his 20 years in rugby league, he has kept his interest as an on-rails bookmaker, which hardly endeared him to enemies who referred to him simply as "The Bookie".

If a smooth handover can be completed quickly, Chris Caisley, the SLE chairman, confirmed that Lindsay may leave early. Even then, he will continue as an unpaid non-executive director responsible for television negotiations and new franchises. For all the supposed young Turks about, there is still no more cunning wheeler-dealer —



World at his feet: Lindsay, right, was instrumental in the formation of the Super League in 1995, which transformed the financial fortunes of rugby league

some would argue manipulative and ruthless — than Lindsay, who was anxious not to sever his links completely.

Not for the first time, Lindsay referred to rugby league "punching above its weight" — a phrase often used to describe him. At 58, the boyish enthusiasm still shines through. As his other profession implies, his is a gambler's instinct.

There were times during the club mergers furore in 1995 when he seemed to stake the game itself on getting the right price for the new Super League. At £87 million, Lindsay won but at a personal cost.

His most vivid memory of that time was being accused outside Wembley after the Wigan team, whose rise he had orchestrated, had won their eighth successive

Challenge Cup final. "A man with his wife and son stopped the car on a zebra crossing," he said. "Why are you ruining this kid's future?" he kept shouting. What people wouldn't admit at the time was that rugby league was on its way out without the News Corporation deal. We went from the begging bowl to the rich man's table."

On arrival at Wigan as a junior

director, Lindsay was ordered to make the tea. A great club had reached its nadir of the second division and with three fellow directors — Jack Hilton, Tom Rathbone and Jack Robinson — a boardroom coup cleared the deadwood and set the stage for a domination unseen in English sport. When Wigan beat Hull in the classic 1985 Challenge Cup final, Lindsay's

thirst for glory continued to drive Wigan onwards and upwards. It was Lindsay who brought John Ferguson and Brett Kenny, two fine Australian talents, to Central Park; he was responsible for such signings as Ellery Hanley, Andy Gregory and Martin Offiah and others to make pulses race; he appointed two overseas coaches, firstly Graham Lowe and then

'It will seem strange without him, and not nearly so colourful'

John Monie, who transformed Wigan on the field while Lindsay, as chairman, created a model professional outfit.

His appointment in 1992 as Rugby Football League (RFL) chief executive was no surprise, but after the laid-back regime of the urbane David Copley, the self-made, ambitious Lindsay came as a rude awakening at the old Chapelown Road headquarters. Delegation was never a strong point, fools were not suffered and his personal mission to take the game to the promised land — anywhere outside the North, it seemed — brought casualties and enemies in abundance.

A workaholic and ruthless perfectionist, perhaps there was no-one better qualified than Lindsay when the Super League came knocking in 1995. The windfall saw the game on the verge of being torn apart over mergers, franchises and the switch to summer rugby, during which the knives were unsheathed for the demonised Lindsay, but it is a fact that rugby league is better placed now than it has ever been.

When he referred to leaving behind the "drivel and dross" after six years at the RFL, Lindsay's famous tact did not make his jumping ship to SLE last year any smoother. His new relationship with Caisley, one of Lindsay's fiercest critics while at the RFL, was a mystery, but within weeks, Lindsay had delivered his parting gifts — a two-year sponsorship of the Super League by JJB Sports and a renegotiated £45 million television deal up to 2003.

"Since 1979, I've seen every year bring an advancement," Lindsay said. "1999 will be the best yet." It will be strange without him, less controversial perhaps, but undoubtedly not nearly so colourful.

SAILING

Ainslie closes in on first Laser title

By EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

BEN AINSLIE is continuing to set a blistering pace at the Laser class world championships in Melbourne where he leads his old rival, Robert Scheidt of Brazil, by five points with two days of racing left.

The young Briton is bidding for his first world title in Lasers and is determined to stop Scheidt adding a third to his existing two, hardly putting a tack out of place over the past three days.

Apart from the first race, when he finished ninth to Scheidt's seventh, the Olympic silver medal-winner, recently voted BT/BJA Inshore Racing Yachtsman of the Year, has never been out of the top three. Yesterday he was third in the first race and won the second, his fifth win so far.

Shirley Robertson began her bid for a world title in the Europe single-handed dinghy with two wins yesterday. In the Finn class, Iain Percy is second after four races, five points behind Mateusz Kusnierevich, the Polish Olympic gold medal-winner.

In the hotly contested 49er fleet, Chris Nicholson, the world champion from Australia, leads after five races. Andy and Ian Budge, of Britain, are seventh overall, three points behind the leaders, while Tim Robinson and Ian Walker are twelfth.

In the Solings, Andy Beadsworth has returned to the sort of erratic form that plagued him last year and that could allow Lawrie Smith to finish ahead of him at the British Olympic trials next year. Beadsworth was sixteenth after three races with Smith three places better off.

In Auckland, meanwhile, Mike Golding announced his withdrawal from the Around Alone Race because the damage suffered by Team Group 4 after the grounding off Cape Riego cannot be rectified in time for the start of the third leg on February 6.

"I am absolutely devastated at having to withdraw, but I believe it would be irresponsible for me to continue with the existing keel," Golding said.

RUGBY UNION: BAISTER SEEKS TO ASSIST BOTH CLUBS AND COUNTRY WITH PROPOSED CONTROLS

RFU considers move to reduce number of overseas players

By MARK SOUSTER

West Hartlepool have 12 and Saracens 11. At the bottom are Wasps with six and Gloucester with four, both of whose respective directors of rugby, Nigel Melville and Richard Hill, are keen to promote English talent.

Whether such proposals would fit existing European employment law is unclear,

but having taken legal advice, Twickenham is of the opinion that controls could be introduced. "We believe we could put something in place which, although not strictly legal, is not illegal if everybody agrees to it," Baister said. "There is a definite move towards that."

He added: "There will always be a club-country dilemma. The clubs are businesses and the RFU is trying to look after the interests of the international game. We have to find a middle ground." It has been suggested that the union should offer financial

incentives to persuade clubs to agree to a new code. Another idea being floated is that international match fees of about £5,000 could go to the clubs rather than individuals. At present only two foreign players, who by definition do not enjoy European Union workers' rights, are allowed in a match-day squad. By an

Kingsholm date is reward for Henley

HENLEY'S giant-killing at Bedford on Sunday has earned them a plum tie away to Gloucester in the fifth round of the Telford's Bitter Cup (David Hands writes).

The draw, made by Paul Wallace, the Gloucester team manager, did not treat the lesser lights kindly — only Leycester will be at home, and that against Saracens, the holders — but Henley will have few grins about visiting Kingsholm.

The Jewson National League first division club cheerfully acknowledges that they will not win the cup, but they will enjoy the prospect of playing at so famous a venue and they will do their best to cause Gloucester some discomfort on the way. They reckon they have already made

£20,000 from their cup run and if the Gloucester public give them the respect that they deserve, that sum will be even healthier. "We haven't had too many Henleyties in the Shed," John Fidler, the Gloucester team manager, said, "but if they can go to Bedford and win, fair play to them. We will prepare properly."

CUP DRAW

FIFTH ROUND: Northampton v London Irish, Wasps v Worcester, London Scottish v Harlequins, Gloucester v Henley, West Hartlepool v Newcastle, Richmond v Exeter, Leicester v Leeds, Leycester v Saracens.

□ Tie to be played January 30 and 31.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: PARCELLS' CONTENDERS ON THE BRINK OF SUPER BOWL

Jets the toast of Broadway

By OLIVER HOLT

TWO years ago, the New York Jets were a laughing stock. They had an expensive quarterback who couldn't throw, a wide receiver who openly mocked the rest of his team-mates and a coach who seemed more concerned with petty discipline than the fact that his team could only win one of their 16 regular season games. Things have changed now.

Rich Kotite, a coach who once interrupted a training session to tell me to stand up on the sidelines, is long gone. His place has been taken by Bill Parcells, the man who guided the New York Giants and the New England Patriots to the Super Bowl and now, in his second season in charge, stands on the brink of setting a National Football League record by leading a third side into the showpiece event of the sport.

It would have been hard to believe before he arrived, but

on Sunday, Parcells took the Jets to within one step of the Super Bowl in Miami on January 31 when he led his team to a nail-biting 34-24 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars. It earned them a tie against the Denver Broncos next Sunday and the chance to claim the American Football Conference championship for only the second time.

The Jets have been revitalised by Parcells. In particular, he has instilled a fighting spirit in the team epitomised by that once unhappy wide receiver, Keyshawn Johnson.

In the bad old days of Kotite, Johnson wrote an autobiography called *Just Give Me The Damn Ball*. The Jets obeyed that command on Sunday, Johnson scored two touchdowns and the Jets held on to secure their game against John Elway and the Broncos.

day, the Minnesota Vikings, one of the surprise teams of this season, achieved their expected victory over the Arizona Cardinals to clinch their own tie against the Atlanta Falcons for the National Football Conference title in Minneapolis next Sunday. The Vikings, led by Randall Cunningham, the

LAST FOUR

NATIONAL CONFERENCE (NFC)
Minnesota Vikings v New York Jets
AMERICAN CONFERENCE (AFC)
Denver Broncos v New York Jets

veteran quarterback, eased past the Cardinals 41-21 to claim their place among the last four post-season teams for the first time in 11 years.

"Minnesota have got an excellent football team on both sides of the ball," Vince Tobin, the Cardinals coach, said. "If

you fall behind in a place like this it's hard to come back. We tried but we came up short. They are a formidable team."

Cunningham, who completed 17 of his 27 passes for 236 yards and three touchdowns, has made the most dramatic comeback of the season. Written off, he was given his chance back in September when the Vikings' first choice, Brad Johnson, was injured. Now he has made the position his own.

"My offensive line did an excellent job protecting me today," Cunningham said. "It's been a wonderful season for me so far, so much better than I could have hoped for, but there are still two games to go before I can say it was perfect."

□ Marty Schottenheimer resigned yesterday after ten years as coach of the Kansas City Chiefs. The team disappointed this season, missing the play-offs.

SKIING

British champion out on his own

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN Tignes, FRANCE

ANDREW FRESHWATER, the defending champion, confirmed his ranking as favourite for the opening event of the British Land national championships, the men's downhill, with his second consecutive fastest training time here yesterday.

Freshwater, 25, made few errors despite the poor visibility, strong winds and driving snow to record 1min 21.44sec, which gave him a cushion of more than two seconds over Johnny Moulder-Brown, the British junior champion. "A lot can still happen but I'm pleased with the way I skied," he said.

Freshwater has suffered from an acute lack of downhill races in Europe this season as he builds up to the Alpine world championships in the United States at the end of this month, but has demonstrated in training the gulf that exists between him and the chasing pack of British downhill skiers.

No such gulf is apparent among the British women. While Tessa Pirie led both training runs and looks favourite to win the women's downhill title today, all her compatriots attacked the course with aggression and enthusiasm.

This was underlined by the performance of Danielle Boshier, 15, who yesterday skied a much more confident attacking run in only her second downhill race, finishing third among the Britons. Pirie's younger sister Amanda, in second place, was just under a second down on her sibling, who will have no margin for error today.

Alain Baxter and Emma Carrick-Anderson, the leading British slalom skiers, arrive later in the week to compete in the technical disciplines.

Baxter competes in both slalom and giant slalom, while Carrick-Anderson, who is fresh from winning an international race in Sweden, will be looking for a successful defence of her British women's slalom title.



Cunningham, the veteran Minnesota Vikings quarterback, salutes the crowd after victory over the Arizona Cardinals

Killick bids to prove himself a step ahead

The growing trend in dance sport is to find a female Russian partner. Ruth Gledhill reports

Dance sport judges will be closely marking the moves of Paul Killick, of England, tomorrow as he takes to the floor with his new partner in the Star Ball at Grosvenor House in London. Killick is one of an increasing number of Britain's top male competitors opting to dance with partners from the former Soviet Union rather than England. Male dancers say they prefer the grit, determination and well-muscled stamina of partners from countries such as Russia and Ukraine.

Killick, 29, from Kent, is the most talented Latin dancer to emerge from England in several years and, having paired up with 21-year-old Karyna Kytkova, is bringing a renewed challenge to Bryan Watson and Karen Hardy, the British No 1 Latin couple.

Watson, born in South Africa, and the home-grown Hardy, have reigned supreme on British soil at least for the past two years. However, Killick and Kytkova, who teamed up six months ago and made a stunning debut at the US Open in Miami last September where they finished runners-up, are already challenging Watson and Hardy in the rumba and paso doble.

The pair also hope to challenge Watson and Hardy in the cha-cha-cha, where Killick believes that Watson, the taller dancer, is vulnerable. "His girl is not of the same quality as mine," he said. "In the long-term, that is going to make the difference."

Also climbing the world rankings with a Russian partner, and aiming to finish in the top six at the Star, will be Jonathan Wilkins, 28, of England. Competing under the American flag as that nation's professional standard champion, Wilkins, from Slough, teamed up three years ago with the statuesque blonde, Yekaterina Demidova.

"Our goal is to make the final at the Star," Wilkins, who finished fifth with Demidova, 21, at the world finals in Miami, said. "Katusha (Demidova) has been dancing since she

was 5. She was also a top ice skater and was trained as a pianist as well. The Russian girls are just so beautiful and so dedicated. They have a special look that is very good on the floor, a certain competitive edge."

The trend is not confined to the professional field. After a series of unsuccessful partnerships with British girls, one of England's top amateur standard dancers, Craig Draper, from Sheffield, has teamed up with Irina Chuprakov, 16, from Russia.

Training sessions at Dance Options, Cheam, in Surrey have been highly encouraging. Draper, 23, tipped as a future British No 1, said: "Irina is probably the best ballroom dancer in Russia. She has so much natural ability, nothing is false about her."

'Russians have an enormous desire to win'

Both Killick and Kytkova, and Wilkins and Chuprakov, will be going on to Bournemouth next week to dance against thousands of couples from around the world in the UK Open. In Russia alone, more than 100,000 couples are registered as amateur dancers, compared to about 2,000 in England. Determination to escape lives of poverty and hardship in the former communist bloc means that Russian dance sport competitors have learnt to excel in the same way as Russian gymnasts and ballet dancers. But because dance sport has only recently become an Olympic sport, the wealth of Russian talent has not been apparent until now.

Under Olympic rules, none of these partnerships will be able to take part when dance sport makes it onto the Olympic programme, either in 2004 or 2008. Olympic participation demands that both couples should be of the same nationality to represent their country. But in dance sport world championships, as with most other events in the sport at present, the rules are more flexible and couples are able to dance for the country of either member of the partnership.

Italy is another country where British women, in particular, are finding top-class male partners — and adds further proof that dancers are prepared to sacrifice a potential Olympic medal in order to find the right partner.

John Leach, editor of *Dance News*, which is promoting the UK championship next week, said: "The Russians have shown in other sports and arts such as ballet and gymnastics a natural ability to transfer music into movement. They are producing an enormous number of couples, and girls in particular, of a high standard."

"People are attracted by the Russian temperament, their enormous desire to win. And now that there are fewer visa restrictions, the Russians are being considered as partners by men from every nation in the world, not just England."



Killick and Kytkova have already made a great impact during their six months together



Wilkins, from Slough, and Demidova are hoping to finish in the top six at the Star Ball in London

BOWLS

Holt adds a fresh chapter to his story of success

DAVID HOLT defeated Tony Allcock 3-7, 5-7, 7-5, 7-2, 7-3 in the preliminary round of the world indoor singles championship at Poters Leisure Resort in Norfolk yesterday after taking a leaf out of the book of his opponent.

Allcock, unseeded, and desperate to collect some ranking points, appeared to be on his way to an easy straight-sets victory when he led 5-3 in the third set, only for Holt to remember a useful piece of advice that he had read in a book written by Allcock.

"Tony wrote that if what you normally do is not working for you, you should try something else," Holt said. "So, when

Tony put his first bowl next to the jack, I decided to do something unorthodox, and ditched the jack."

A succession of bowls drawn delicately to the jack in the ditch left Holt holding one shot, and Allcock in a useful second position, when Holt delivered what he later described as a "wonder bowl".

"I thought I could ditch Tony's saving bowl for a count of three, but my own bowls somehow stayed on the green, and I scored a full house, which not only gave me the set, but boosted my confidence."

Rarely can a game have been turned so decisively with a single bowl as Holt suddenly began to play like a winner.

Two ends later he collected another full house and, although Allcock put up spirited resistance in the deciding set, Holt proved to be the master.

Holt's first victory over Allcock was 12 years ago when he astonished spectators at Worthing by beating the then world indoor champion, 21-5, in the final of the English outdoor singles championship.

No one in the far green game had heard of the precocious crown green bowler who, at 20 years of age, had the temerity to win not only the singles, but the pairs as well.

Since then, he has gone on to play for England indoors and out, and has beaten most of the top players in leading events. For good measure he is also the manager of the Blackpool Borough indoor bowls club.

David Corkill, who was a successful and popular competitor in the Eighties, has kept a low profile for the past few years, as he has given priority to his career as an administrator with the Northern Ireland Health Service.

Last November, however, he rolled back the years to win the UK singles title at Poters, and he continued in winning vein yesterday when he beat his fellow Ireland international, Jim Baker, who won the world title in 1984.

The first set took 68 minutes, the longest of the championships so far, and went to Corkill, 7-6. He took the second, which could have gone either way, by the same score and then mopped up the third, 7-0, in only four ends.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1. Bb3! Qxb3. 2. Qg6! Kh8. 3. Qxe8+ and wins easily.

Same place, new drama

Holby City
BBC1, 8.10pm

For those who still think there are not enough medical dramas on television here is a spin-off from *Casualty* which gets to parts of Holby Hospital beyond accident and emergency. To make addicts of the parent show feel at home, there is a brief appearance from Derek Thompson's eternal Charlie and more on a case first aired in *Casualty*. But the undoubted star of *Holby City* is Anton Meyer, a heart surgeon from hell played by George Irving. He is as irascible and intimidating as James Robertson Justice in the Doctor films but without the jokes. "Don't do that unless you want him to die," he snaps at an underling in the operating theatre, while one of his nearest competitors made with Atilla the Hun. Meyer apart this is standard hospital fare, but delivered less heatedly than is usual with this genre.

Airline
ITV, 8.30pm

The material is familiar (difficult and angry passengers, harassed staff, delayed flights) but the airline and the characters are new. Welcome to easyjet, a crash, no-frills operation which offers cheap seats, tickless booking and no in-flight meals. For the next eight weeks easyjet will be in the eye of the camera, as will its 32-year-old owner, Stelios Haji-Iannopoulos, a multi-millionaire who insists that his cabin staff wear uniforms in his favourite orange. He is setting off to Amsterdam in tonight's film, but has to endure the wrath of his own customers when the flight is held up. Meanwhile, Jane Boulton at the check-in desk is having to tell passengers that easyjet does not accept live animals. This is bad news for 15-year-old David, who has come all the way from Canada with three lobsters as a present for friends.

Great Railway Journeys
BBC2, 9.30pm

Michael Portillo is this week's traveller, tracing his family roots, and particularly those of his father, in Spain. The Spanish Civil War hangs heavily over the film, not only for its effect on Spain in the wider sense but for splitting families. While Portillo's father, a poet and university teacher, supported the



Professor David Southall in *Someone to Watch Over Me* (ITV, times vary)

Republican side before being forced into exile in England, all six of his brothers fought for Franco. A vast family reunion in Madrid suggests that wounds may have healed. Portillo starts his journey at the Alhambra in Granada and ends in Salamanca where his father studied the rail travel. As with many films in this series the rail travel is mostly incidental, though Portillo introduces us to Spain's oldest working locomotive and the magnificent high speed train which glides between Seville and Madrid at up to 180 mph.

Someone to Watch over Me
ITV, 10.40pm

A documentary calculated to disturb highlights a rare personality disorder which causes persons to injure, and sometimes kill, their children. Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy was identified 30 years ago by the paediatrician, Sir Roy Meadow. The causes of the condition remain obscure, but the reason why parents abuse their children is to gain attention for themselves. Jane Harvey's report looks at cases in Britain and America and includes an interview with a woman serving ten years in prison for killing her daughter. The film also shows doctors using hidden cameras in hospital wards to record abusers in the act. Video surveillance is controversial. Supporters say it is essential for obtaining proof. Critics retort that it is a form of entrapment. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: Bawcock's Eve
Radio 4, 2.15pm

This is an absorbing dramatisation, based on a Cornish legend which I learnt about as a boy and have always regarded as having a Christian undertone, there being an implied link between Tom Bawcock (pronounced Bowcock) setting off to catch a boat full of pilchards to save the village of Looe from starvation and Christ's injunction to the fishermen in Galilee. Nick Barker's play brings a contemporary perspective to the tale, as we discover in the first minute ('She'll be back dretty — gone Spar'). The words are those of Gran (Barbara Jefford), who causes unexpected mayhem when she takes in a pregnant stranger, who, like Bawcock, has been led to Looe by a vision. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

5.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Kevin Greening 1.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 2.00pm Chris Moyles 3.00pm Dan Pearce 4.00pm The Evening Session 5.00pm Steve Wright 6.00pm Boy in the Street 7.00pm The Breakfast Show 8.00pm The Breakfast Show 9.00pm The Breakfast Show 10.00pm The Breakfast Show 11.00pm The Breakfast Show 12.00am The Breakfast Show

RADIO 2 (BBC)

5.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 8.00am Johnnie Walker 9.00am The Breakfast Show 10.00am The Breakfast Show 11.00am The Breakfast Show 12.00pm The Breakfast Show 1.00pm The Breakfast Show 2.00pm The Breakfast Show 3.00pm The Breakfast Show 4.00pm The Breakfast Show 5.00pm The Breakfast Show 6.00pm The Breakfast Show 7.00pm The Breakfast Show 8.00pm The Breakfast Show 9.00pm The Breakfast Show 10.00pm The Breakfast Show 11.00pm The Breakfast Show 12.00am The Breakfast Show

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00am Breakfast 8.00am Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News with Annie Webster 1.00pm Race and Go 4.00pm Drive 5.00pm The FA Cup Third Round replays 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm The Tuesday Match, Fulham introduces coverage of the night's football action, including the FA Cup third-round replays 10.00pm Late Night Live with Brian Hayes 1.00am Up At Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30am Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00pm Janet Scott 6.45pm Mark Forster 10.00pm Richard Allen 1.00am James Martin 4.30pm Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.00am Big Boys Breakfast 8.00am Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Rieburn 3.00pm Peter Dinkley's Drive 5.00pm The Sports Zone 8.00pm James White 1.00am Ian Collins

EBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00am World News 7.15am Outlook 7.55am The World Today 8.00am World News 8.20am The World Today 8.30am The World Today 8.45am The World Today 9.00am The World Today 9.15am The World Today 9.30am The World Today 9.45am The World Today 10.00am The World Today 10.15am The World Today 10.30am The World Today 10.45am The World Today 11.00am The World Today 11.15am The World Today 11.30am The World Today 11.45am The World Today 12.00am The World Today 12.15am The World Today 12.30am The World Today 12.45am The World Today 1.00am The World Today 1.15am The World Today 1.30am The World Today 1.45am The World Today 2.00am The World Today 2.15am The World Today 2.30am The World Today 2.45am The World Today 3.00am The World Today 3.15am The World Today 3.30am The World Today 3.45am The World Today 4.00am The World Today 4.15am The World Today 4.30am The World Today 4.45am The World Today 5.00am The World Today 5.15am The World Today 5.30am The World Today 5.45am The World 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Four men in a comic league of their own

If you find the idea of a demented neurotic host and his hapless nephew giving their visiting nephew the house tour and explaining the bathroom rules "with the ditty," "And then there's the towel white for hands, brown for feet, green for torso, thighs and seat; in the cupboard, neatly the stool, you'll find the red for pubic hair," both surreal and funny, then you're the sort of person who may have their next few Monday evenings sorted out watching *The League of Gentlemen* (BBC2). It is always hard to tell after just one episode of a new series, but already it has the feel of a cult show.

Written and performed by the 1997 Perrier Award winners Mark Gaddis, Steve Pemberton, Reece Shearsmith and Jeremy Dyson, *The League of Gentlemen* raises its head above much of the competition both through the weirdness of its comic vision, and by the care

which has been taken with every last detail. Tubbs and Edward—the deeply deranged couple who run the local shop of the fictional northern village of Royston Vasey in the middle of nowhere (at any rate, nowhere you'd want to go)—not only have their own idiosyncratic way of talking, but their shelves are stacked with exactly the sort of useless or unappealing foods or trinkets that nobody apart from village shops ever sells.

Every stick of furniture—even the dizzying green and brown wallpaper—in the house of Auntie Val and Uncle Harvey, those neurotic hosts who are putting up their nephew Benjamin for a night before he begins his hiking holiday, seems to have been chosen to chime with the characters of the houseowners. Then there's the slightly strange taxi driver you always get when you pick up a cab

from remote railway stations: this one's called Barbara and he's a transsexual who, instead of chattering on about the new road-building projects, regales his passengers with the improbable details of his sex-change operation.

The scenes are full of incidental visual jokes (often groan-worthy) and the acting is good enough for you often to have to remind yourself that all the key parts are played by just three players (Dyson being the only one of the foursome who doesn't perform).

You wonder how Cilla Black and Blind Date have lasted so long, until you see something like *Disables* (Channel 4), the first of which three men tried to win the heart of—or at least a date with—a 19-year-old student by titillating her palate. One produced a fried-egg sandwich, another cooked haggis, the last created sticky to-

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

ffee pudding. The pudding chef got to accompany the female student on a date to an Italian restaurant. Danny Brown and Kate Thornton look after the girls and the boys, respectively, but have the desperate air of doctors in an Accident and Emergency department trying vainly to resuscitate a limp body.

Though barely half as long as *Disables*, the short film *Yellow*,

shown on Shooting Gallery, part of Channel 4's showcase for new directors, was at least 150 times as bewitching. Written and directed by Simon Benbow (who also wrote *The Full Monty*) and Billie Eltringham, *Yellow* was a taut, haunting film which exposed the tensions rupturing the relationships between a man, played by Ray Winstone, his lover and her young daughter as they drive off for a seaside picnic. An air of menace builds as the manipulative young girl—jealous of the new man on the end of her mother's fingertips—traps the well-meaning Winstone in a situation which ensures he'll not be bothering her or her mother any more.

Gathering the money to make even short magical films like these is a headache—certainly compared to sucking money out of Brussels if you happen to be a big farmer. In the second episode of his campaign to tweak the ear of

British farming, Oliver Watson—who himself receives £180,000 a year in European Union farm subsidies—spent last night's *Against the Grain* (BBC2) ploughing the country for an answer to the question of why farmers who grow wheat that nobody wants are feather-bedded when, say, Sunderland's once busy shipyards are now all but silent because nobody wants their ships.

Could you imagine any other industry benefiting from an intervention system? he asks in his blunt, boyish manner, perching on an Eiger of EU-owned barley stockpiled in Yorkshire. "A dishwasher company that could not sell dishwashers, and instead of grain you had dishwashers piled up from floor to ceiling? We'd say it was crazy. But the people who would say it longest and loudest would be farmers, because there's a streak of hypocrisy

in farmers. Before a businessman decides to produce either flowerpots or fluffy toys he first assesses market demand. I have never been bothered by those tedious details." Watson—who farms 2,000 acres in Cambridgeshire—is not saying that small farmers, some of whom are barely surviving, don't deserve some government help. But his jaw gaps at how we have come to accept the Lewis Carroll world of the common agriculture policy as a sane way to run farming, especially when farmers already enjoy other benefits such as zero rates on land, inheritance tax breaks, and being bailed out by taxpayers after the BSE crisis.

Like many other policies, the CAP was drafted with good intentions: but—as with feeding cows sheep protein—it has all gone creepily wrong. Anybody who has reservations about jumping straight into the euro should be watching this series.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (20378)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (47947)
 - 9.00 Kilroy (1) (8705893)
 - 9.45 The Vanessa Show (1) (5187863)
 - 10.55 News Weather (1) (7044657)
 - 11.00 Real Rooms (7040304)
 - 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (7024833)
 - 11.55 News Weather (1) (1257589)
 - 12.00pm Call My Bluff (18396)
 - 12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (43580)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (1) (40394)
 - 1.30 Regional News Weather (8973889)
 - 1.40 The League of Gentlemen (1) (5425909)
 - 2.05 Ironside Threats to a parole officer arouse suspicion when it turns out the man is particularly hard on drug cases. William Shatner guest stars (1) (7701183)
 - 2.55 Going for a Song (863638)
 - 3.20 The Weather Show Stories about the weather (1) (2034589)
 - 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (7178198)
 - 3.45 The Enchantress: Lands: The Adventure (1) (5187863)
 - 4.10 The Really Wild Show (1) (5187863)
 - 4.35 The Really Wild Show (1) (5187863)
 - 5.00 Newsround (5507454) 5.10 See How They Run (8647906)
 - 5.35 Rewind (1) (881183)
 - 5.35 Newsround (1) (144102)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News Weather (1) (251)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (531)
 - 7.00 Holiday In Denico samples the delights of Tunisia, while Michael McIntyre takes a cruise around Florida and the Bahamas. Plus, Carol Smilie brushes up her cookery skills at the Scottish Chef's Centre in Glasgow (1) (4826)
 - 7.30 EastEnders Tensions threaten to erupt at the funeral (1) (843473)

- BBC2**
- 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Little Polar Bear (9643611) 7.05 Teletubbies (2070589) 7.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (2363015) 7.50 Blue Peter (237531) 8.15 The Muppet Show (237531) 8.40 The Do Do Show (237531) 8.50 Golem (237531) 9.05 Hello aus Berlin (7324251) 9.10 Working It Out (718454) 9.25 Techno (5530334) 9.45 Number One (1375270) 10.00 Teletubbies (2070589) 10.30 Watch (5844454) 10.45 Science Zone (2363015) 11.05 Space Ark (722259) 11.15 Megamaths (2367676) 11.30 Words and Pictures (2367676) 11.50 History File (2344725) 12.10pm English Express (4034725) 12.30 The World's Worst (1) (41102)
 - 1.00 Odele Dots (7316633)
 - 1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (252490)
 - 2.10 Sporting Greats With the swimmer Duncan Goodhew (2252576)
 - 2.40 News Weather (1) (808541)
 - 2.45 Westminster (1) (8020170)
 - 3.25 News Weather (1) (2024102)
 - 3.30 Birds with Tony Sopar (1) (8147657)
 - 3.50 The Clouds Roll By (1946) Musical biopic of the composer Jerome Kern, Robert Walker and Judy Garland star. Directed by Richard Thorpe (2829473)
 - 6.00 Newsround (5507454) 6.10 See How They Run (8647906)
 - 6.35 Rewind (1) (881183)
 - 5.35 Newsround (1) (144102)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News Weather (1) (251)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (531)
 - 7.00 Holiday In Denico samples the delights of Tunisia, while Michael McIntyre takes a cruise around Florida and the Bahamas. Plus, Carol Smilie brushes up her cookery skills at the Scottish Chef's Centre in Glasgow (1) (4826)
 - 7.30 EastEnders Tensions threaten to erupt at the funeral (1) (843473)

- HTV**
- 5.30am JTN Morning News (14270)
 - 6.00 GMTV (8537218)
 - 6.25 Trisha (1) (801589)
 - 10.30 This Morning (1) (2427829)
 - 12.10pm HTV News (1) (496367)
 - 12.30 JTN Lunchtime News (1) (45928)
 - 1.00 Shortland Street Ruth transforms Kennedy's (35102)
 - 1.30 Home and Away Donald and Marilyn clash over Sam (1) (44239)
 - 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (1) (235473)
 - 2.45 Supermarket Sweep (1) (50622)
 - 3.15 JTN News Headlines (1) (2022744)
 - 3.20 HTV News (1) (2029567)
 - 3.25 CITY: Mopop's Shop (2029567) 3.35 Rosie and Jim (8542454) 3.50 The Wombles (1955522) 4.00 Cow and Chicken (8527878) 4.25 Mike and Angelo (852116) 4.50 How I Met U (8520328)
 - 5.10 A Country Practice Hugo falls madly in love (2505706)
 - 5.40 JTN Early Evening News (1) (742833)
 - 5.50 HTV Crimestopper (963586)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (1) (244164)
 - 6.25 WALKER: Wales Tonight (1) (854928)
 - 6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (305560)
 - 6.30 The West Tonight (1) (259)
 - 6.50 Emmerdale Kim and Steve go on trial (1) (908)
 - 7.30 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Big-prize game show (1) (75034)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (5011015)
 - 1.00 Headlines (35102)
 - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9033270)
 - 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (507251)
 - 3.20-3.25 Central News (2029567)
 - 5.15-5.40 Shortland Street (2505706)
 - 6.25-7.00 Central News Weather (45928)
 - 10.30-10.40 Central News Weather (145341)
 - 4.35pm Central Jobfinder '99 (5402023)
 - 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (4275481)
- As HTV West except: 12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather (9495367)
- 12.27-12.30 Illuminations (6025034)
- 1.00 Emmerdale (35102)
- 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9033270)
- 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (507251)
- 3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather (2029567)
- 5.05 Birthday People (8626184)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (507251)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry News (53947)
- 10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather (145341)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (94928)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (30657)
 - 9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (6513367)
 - 9.20 What the Papers Said (7321164)
 - 9.30 Eureka (8375183) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (8370638) 10.00 The Number Crew (4818567) 10.10 TWM (5859228)
 - 10.25 How We Used to Live (585763)
 - 10.45 Words of Faith (5967305) 11.00 First Edition (507251) 11.15 Stage One (502102)
 - 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (4522)
 - 12.00 Sesame Street (82116)
 - 12.30pm Bewitched (1) (33740)
 - 1.00 Pet Rescue (1) (33744)
 - 1.30 Roots to Success (1) (8046785)
 - 1.50 Unleash Your Self (1957) Four sisters fall for American masters based in New Zealand. Starring Paul Newman. Directed by Robert Wise (1) (8159725)
 - 3.30 Hampton Court Palace (1) (305)
 - 4.00 Fifteen to One (1) (812)
 - 4.30 Countdown (1) (1754164)
 - 4.55 Rick Lake (1) (485522)
 - 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (876)
 - 6.00 King of the Hill (1) (589)
 - 6.30 Home Improvement Tim's refusal to break his routine makes everyone's life impossible (1) (51251)
 - 6.55 Planet Pop (741812)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (1) (606184)
 - 7.50 Gilbert and Sullivan: The Very Models (1) (235058)
 - 8.00 Brookside Lindsay discovers Peter's whereabouts (1) (6388)
 - 8.30 Classic Aircraft Exploration of the new roles found for old aircraft (1) (5883)
 - 9.00 Rat Mark Lewis' award-winning film exploring man's struggle to control the world's rat population (1) (4883)
 - 10.00 Father Ted A boring priest descends on Craggy Island (1) (347657)
 - 10.35 Bob and Margaret Bob's cousin pays a visit (1) (173183)

- CHANNEL 5**
- 6.00am 5 News and Sports Current events (7933473)
 - 7.00 WideWorld Part three. How the peacock developed its magnificent train (3/10) (1) (7038676)
 - 7.30 Mithras (1) (805638)
 - 7.35 Winifred's House (1) (8798589)
 - 8.00 Havalakoz (1) (182980)
 - 8.30 Dappledawn Farm (1) (191251)
 - 9.00 Weather Front (1) (115831)
 - 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (8551725)
 - 10.00 Sunset Beach Gals gets more intimate with Antonio (1) (2159473)
 - 11.10 Lessee (1) (204596)
 - 12.00 5 News at Noon (1) (1102367)
 - 12.30pm Family Affairs Dave thinks he's off the hook (1) (6978095)
 - 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sheila hopes for a reconciliation (1) (9037947)
 - 1.30 The Roseanne Show (9977367)
 - 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (838387)
 - 2.30 Good Afternoon (4580831)
 - 3.30 Les Boys Tell (1994) A dying man takes his son on a cross-country trip of self-discovery to the place of his birth. Heart-warming family drama, starring Kirk Douglas. Directed by Tom McLoughlin (1) (8845422)
 - 5.20 Sunset Beach Show earlier (1) (7); 5 News Update (1) (13251)
 - 6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (5259676)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs Jamie leaves home (1) (5240928)
 - 7.00 5 News; Weather (1) (8382183)
 - 7.30 Champions of the Wild The work of the Santa Rosa National Park in Costa Rica, which was set up to provide a safe haven for homeless monkeys (1) (823812)
 - 8.00 Perfect Babies New series. Developments in genetic engineering and the ethical dilemmas posed if prospective parents are offered the possibility of selecting the genetic make-up of their babies. Pioneering work to determine the sex of a child and eradicate hereditary disease is now accepted practice but what are the implications for humanity if research is not regulated? (1); 5 News Update (5580980)
 - 9.00 Bat 21 (1988) Face-based Vietnam War drama, starring Gene Hackman as an ageing Army official shot down behind enemy lines just as his own forces are about to carpet-bomb the area. Danny Glover co-stars as the pilot assigned to guide him to safety from the air. Directed by Peter Markle (1); 5 News Update (5570367)
 - 11.00 Two Guys returns to Seattle for Sarah's funeral, only to find himself at the centre of an anti-life and face to face with Edward and the barrel of a gun (1) (201813)
 - 11.55 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and music (1) (702831)
 - 12.35am Live and Dangerous Action from round five of the Nascar Winter Heat (7790955)
 - 3.45 Asian Football Show Weekly round-up (750861)
 - 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Eddie risks his life to rescue Sonia and Moya realises the odds are against her (306348)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (2180233)

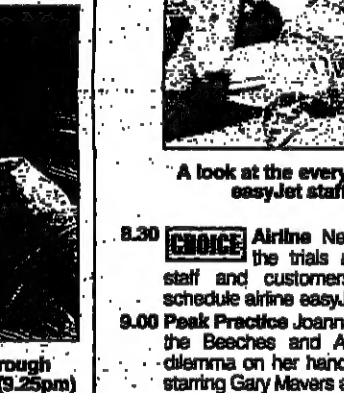
- VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes**
- The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ codes. For the relevant programme in the VIDEO Plus+ range, see the VIDEO Plus+ section on page 48.
- For more details, call VIDEO Plus+ on 0540 750710. Call charged at 25p per minute, all times. VIDEO Plus+ is a registered trademark of Gemstar Development Corporation. © 1998



Tense times during surgery in the new medical drama (8.10pm)



Michael Portillo travels through Spain in search of his roots (8.25pm)



A look at the everyday lives of the easyjet staff (8.30pm)

- 8.10** **CRIME** *Holby City* New series. Life on the wards of Holby City. Hospital, Surgery, Mayor and London race against time to carry out a transplant operation (1) (457386)
- 9.00** **CRIME** *Nine O'Clock News*; Regional News; Weather (1) (8837)
- 9.30** *Paddington Bear*. The bus conductor Danny Green introduces to conflict with his boss (1) (30069)
- 10.00** *Patrol Games* (1992) A former CIA agent goes to a terrorist attack on a member of the Royal Family while holidaying in Britain—only to become a target himself. Political thriller, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Bean. Directed by Philip Johnston (1) (895541)
- 11.55** *Billings* (1992) A Hollywood screenwriter is accused by a mystery man of stealing his ideas. Thriller, with Patricia Wettig. Directed by Lee Phillips (1) (715522)
- 12.00am** *Weather* (4840965)
- 12.15** *BBC News* 24 (3724377)

- 9.25** **CRIME** *Great Railway Journeys* Michael Portillo reveals his Spanish roots as he travels from Granada to Salamanca (1) (145447)
- 10.15** *Shooting the Past* (1) (905102)
- 10.20** *The Whitbread Anniversary* Juliet Morris announces the winners of the Whitbread Book Awards (993367)
- 10.30** *Newsnight* (1) (553928)
- 11.15** *Thriller* by Jury A man is accused of murdering his wife (25) (1) (970795)
- 11.55** *Weather* (153890)
- 12.00** *Dispatch Box* Political news (77329)
- 12.30am** *BBC*. Learning: Zoos: Open University; Slide Cell: A Lethal Advantage 1.00 A Thread of Darkness 1.30 Uncertain Principles 2.00 Schools: Teaching Today—Getting started with ICT 2.15 The New Education 2.30 The New Education 2.45 The New Education 2.55 The New Education 3.00 The New Education 3.15 The New Education 3.30 The New Education 3.45 The New Education 3.55 The New Education 4.00 The New Education 4.15 The New Education 4.30 The New Education 4.45 The New Education 4.55 The New Education 5.00 The New Education 5.15 The New Education 5.30 The New Education 5.45 The New Education 5.55 The New Education 6.00 The New Education 6.15 The New Education 6.30 The New Education 6.45 The New Education 6.55 The New Education 7.00 The New Education 7.15 The New Education 7.30 The New Education 7.45 The New Education 7.55 The New Education 8.00 The New Education 8.15 The New Education 8.30 The New Education 8.45 The New Education 8.55 The New Education 9.00 The New Education 9.15 The New Education 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RACING 43

Whipping boys
face further
backlash

SPORT

TUESDAY JANUARY 12 1999

DANCE SPORT 46

Killick steps into
limelight with
Russian partner

Veteran guides England to second victory with three balls to spare

Fairbrother revives glory days

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN BRISBANE

BRISBANE (Sri Lanka won toss): England beat Sri Lanka by four wickets

THIS time last year Neil Fairbrother was lost to international cricket. The batsman, who excelled in the 1992 World Cup, when England reached the final in Melbourne, and he made a hard-fought fifty, was no longer the same player. He should never have been taken anywhere near the sub-continent four years later, for the next tournament, and seemed to be winding down towards a cosy retirement.

The wheel has turned once more, and "Harvey" has turned with it. Suddenly, at 35, he has become a fitter man. He cannot swoop and throw as once he did, in his prime, but he is no longer fearful of hearing his hair-raising snap when he chases the ball. And

ICC's power surge 44

he is batting as well as ever in limited-overs cricket, as an unbeaten innings of 67 proved here. Without it, England would have stood no chance of beating Sri Lanka.

Some time in the past five years, and it is hard to say just when, the young man in a hurry transformed himself into a senator. When the question was put to him afterwards, he said: "If it is to be the grand old man, I don't mind." I bet he doesn't. Recalled to the England one-day team in Bangladesh three months ago, when he made a half-century against South Africa, the eventual winners of that mini-World Cup, he must feel that every day is a glorious adventure.

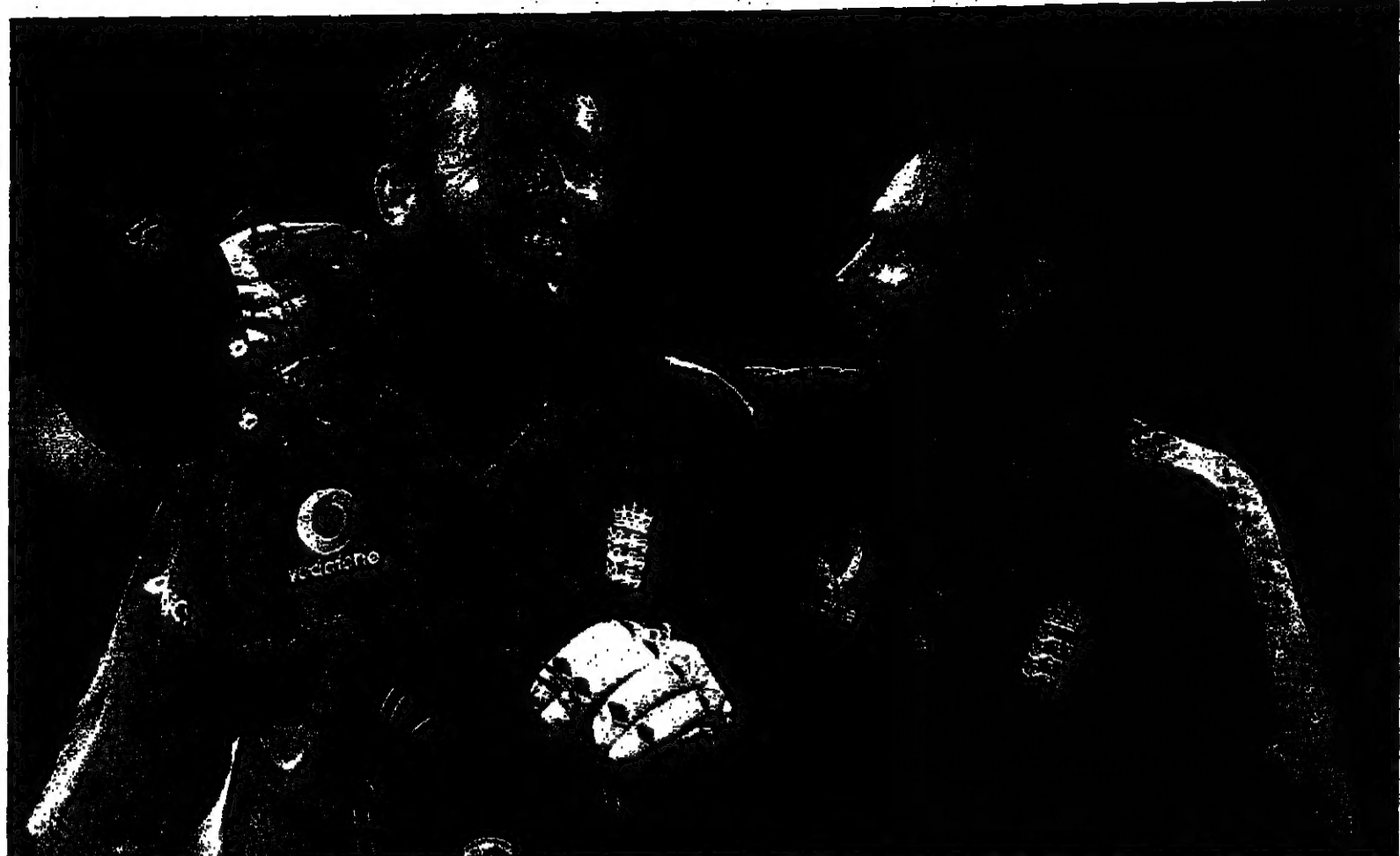
He still has explosive strokes, and he found one to claim a straight six off

Jayasuriya three overs from the end, with 16 runs wanted, but he cuts a more sober figure these days. Older, maybe wiser, but still capable of sprinting 20 yards swiftly and often, he is content to push, nudge, and squirt out the runs, one a ball if possible. He earned his runs in full against Muralitharan, the freakish off spinner, who will join him at Lancashire next summer, after the World Cup. Muralitharan, tweaking away merrily, bamboozled three men as England chased 208 for victory. Alleyne, who somehow added 57 with Fairbrother for the fifth wicket, had no idea how to play him.

It was a spectacle that evoked pity and humour in equal measure until Alleyne was stumped down the leg side from the last ball of Muralitharan's tenth over when Tony McQuillan, the third umpire, gave a decision that could easily have gone the batsman's way. Alleyne had collected 18 runs from the 50 balls he faced, but even he couldn't say where he found them.

Hick, who struck a skyer almost as high as the Post Office Tower, was the first of Muralitharan's wickets, as he advanced to drive him as hard as he could. Kaluwitharana, the excitable wicketkeeper, followed the ball in flight towards the bowler only to retreat and take it, rather well as it turned out, directly over the batsman's head.

With the first ball of his next over Muralitharan beat Holloake all ends up, drifting the ball through the batsman's defence, though the gate was big enough to admit a herd of cattle and a few stray sheep. Holloake walked off crest-fallen. He had bowled well earlier for his own three wickets, and is a proud man. He has the knack



Croft, left, and Fairbrother leave the field in jubilation after their partnership had taken England past the Sri Lanka total. Photograph: Ian Walbridge

of making decent runs in these matches, and is an important player in this side, balancing the team at No 6 or, on this occasion, at No 5, which is, in fairness, one place too high. His dismissal made the score 130 for four and for a time all that Fairbrother and Alleyne could do was wave to each other, hoping there would be the occasional poor ball to put away. There were none. Instead they scampered singles, and preserved the six wickets

England still had. When Alleyne went, Balham followed at once, and it took some sensible batting from Croft, who squeezed out runs through mid-wicket, to win the match with three balls to spare. Sri Lanka made a fair start after Ramanunga won the toss. A high train deprived them of the wonderful De Silva, and he may miss the whole tournament, but even without him there is plenty of scope in this batting order. Fortunately for

England, Gough removed Jayasuriya in his first over, Hick holding a simple catch at second slip.

Kaluwitharana, Atapattu and, latterly, Tillakaratne all passed fifty but the innings never gathered the sort of momentum that Sri Lanka wanted. Holloake saw to that, taking three good wickets, after Kaluwitharana had swept Croft to deep square leg. Headley, the catcher, was the only one of six bowlers not to take a

wicket. Mullally, the match-winner on Sunday, again bowled well and Croft gave the batsmen little to hit.

Eventually, England got the runs they needed and Alec Stewart was pleased with his team's spirit, and their performance. "It's hard to win two games back-to-back in temperatures like that," the England captain said. "We may not have won the Ashes, but we're looking forward to this series, and have made a

good start." Fairbrother supplied his own comments. Looking back to the last World Cup, and ahead to the one that starts in May, he thought: "The roles have been defined, strategies have been laid out, and teams have been picked with them in mind. We know where we are going, and the spirit is very good."

□ The Times one-day series hotline—0891 881461. Reports, updates and commentary. Calls cost 50p per minute.

FULL SCOREBOARD FROM BRISBANE

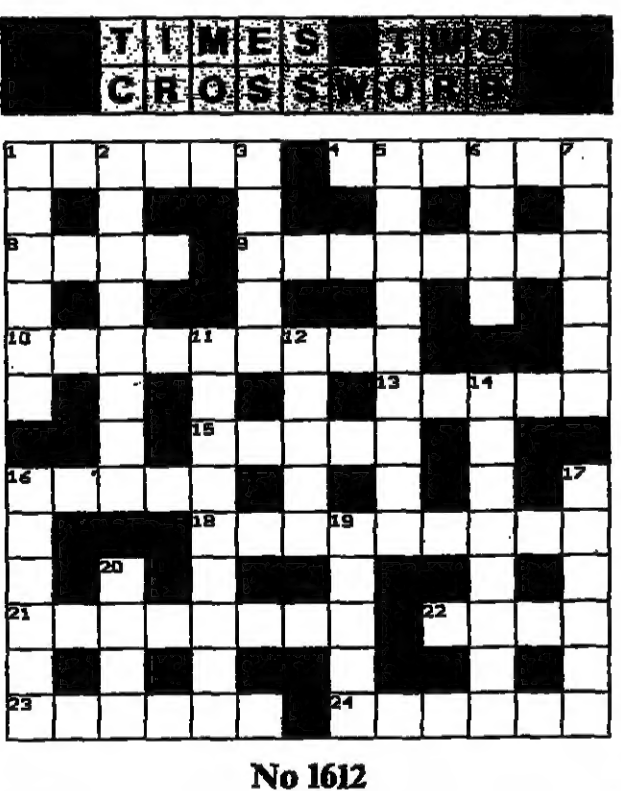
Sri Lanka won toss
SRI LANKA
S T Jayasuriya c Hick b Gough—1
(2 balls)
R S Kaluwitharana c Headley b Croft—58
(61 balls, 5 runs)
M S Atapattu b Holloake—51
(60 balls, 2 runs)
A Tillakaratne c and b Holloake—0
(2 balls)
H P Thilakaratne not out—50
(61 balls, 2 runs)
R S Mahanama c Knight b Holloake—2
(6 balls)
U D U Chandana c Fairbrother b Balham—25
(56 balls, 1 run)
W P U C Vaas b Mullally—5
(16 balls)

G P Wickramasinghe not out—7
(6 balls, 1 run)
Extras (D 3, W 3, NB 3)—10
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs, 200min)—207
M Muralitharan and D N T Zoysa did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2 (Kaluwitharana 11, 3-36 (Atapattu 36, 3-102 (Atapattu 51, 4-128 (Thilakaratne 12, 5-130 (Thilakaratne 20, 6-165 (Tillakaratne 47), 7-200 (Holloake 50).
BOWLING: Gough 9-0-37-1 (w 2; 2 runs: 5-0-24-1, 2-0-8-0, 3-0-5-0; Mullally 10-0-35-1 (w 1; 2 runs: 6-1-10-0, 4-1-18-1; Headley 6-0-22-0 (2 runs: one each; Balham 6-0-33-1 (2 runs: 3-19-0, 3-0-14-1); Croft 10-0-44-1 (1; 2 runs: 6-0-34-1, 2-0-10-0; Holloake 10-0-32-3 (w 2; 1 run; one each).
Score after 15 overs: 63 for 1.

ENGLAND
N V Knight c Kaluwitharana b Chandana—40
(54 balls, 2 runs)
"A J Stuart ran out (Muralitharan)—26
(38 balls, 3 runs)
G A Hick c Kaluwitharana b Muralitharan—37
(42 balls, 1 wk, 2 runs)
N H Fairbrother not out—67
(105 balls, 1 wk, 1 run)
A J Holloake b Muralitharan—1
(5 balls)
M W Alletton c Kaluwitharana b Muralitharan—18
(50 balls)
M A Balham bowled b Tillakaratne—1
(2 balls)

N D S Croft not out—10
(6 balls)
Extras (D 3, W 1, NB 3)—7
Total (6 wickets, 49.3 overs, 200min)—200
D W Headley, D Gough and A D Mullally did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-58 (Knight 33, 2-57 (Hick 21), 3-128 (Fairbrother 23), 4-130 (Fairbrother 24), 5-157 (Fairbrother 57), 6-190 (Fairbrother 59).
BOWLING: Vaas 7.0-0-45-0 (w 2; 3 runs: 5-0-25-0, 2-0-10-0, 3-0-4-0; Zoysa 6-0-31-0 (3 runs: 3-0-20-0, 3-0-11-0; Wickramasinghe 4-0-16-0 (1 run; one each; Muralitharan 10-0-34-3 (w 3; 1 wk: 4-0-16-0, 3-0-8-0, 3-0-8-0); Chandana 10-1-41-4 (w 1; 1 run: 4-0-19-1, 4-1-12-0, 2-0-10-0; Jayasuriya 10-1-35-0 (1 wk: 3-1-27-0, 4-0-8-0; Tillakaratne 2-0-0-1 (one each).

Score after 15 overs: 72 for 1.
England won by four wickets.
Match report: N H Fairbrother.
England: S J Dale and P D Parker. Third innings: A J McQuillan, P C Vettori, M S South Africa. At: 12:30.
TOURNAMENT DETAILS: Jan 10: England 12 Australia (by 8 runs (pressed report)).
ENGLAND MATCHES TO COME (all day-night, Jan 12 v Australia (Melbourne), Jan 13 v Australia (Sydney), Jan 14 v Sri Lanka (Melbourne), Jan 15 v Sri Lanka (Adelaide), Jan 16 v Australia (Perth), Jan 17 v Sri Lanka (Perth), Jan 18 v Sri Lanka (Sydney), Feb 1 v Sri Lanka (Sydney), Feb 2 v Sri Lanka (Adelaide), Feb 3 v Sri Lanka (Melbourne), Feb 4 v Sri Lanka (Perth).
□ Compiled by Bill Frindall



ACROSS
1 Marcel —, Fr. author (6)
4 A vegetable: burdock (6)
5 Warm and comfortable (4)
9 Detailed examination (8)
10 Wife of US president (5,4)
13 Grey (face) pale with shock (5)
15 Fusion (5)
16 (Japanese) mattress/bed (5)
18 A disbeliever/prophet of doom (9)
21 (Body) framework (8)
22 Cut up; cut of meat (4)
23 Rectangular (6)
24 Daze (6)
DOWN
1 Quieten (6)
2 Impede (8)
3 Fish by dragging net (5)
5 Mindlessly optimistic person (after E. Porphy) (9)
6 Displaces (from role) (4)
7 One from Florence region (6)
11 Policeman's baton (9)
12 (Gone) wrong (5)
14 Privation (8)
16 Humiliating failure (6)
17 Meddle (with eg mechanism) (6)
19 Skull cavity (5)
20 Moor; fierce, terrible (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1611
ACROSS: 1 Stained glass 8 Bolster 9 Slash 10 Bind 11 Filament 13 Lubber 15 Wattle 17 Body blow 18 Evil 21 Taint 22 Insanity 23 Gamekeeper
DOWN: 2 Helen 3 Mate 4 Firkin 5 Castaway 6 Dialect 7 Chatterbox 8 Bubble bath 12 Verbena 14 Bidding 16 Yorick 19 Voile 20 Jade

TIMES TWO NEW YEAR WEEKEND JUMBO SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Braggadocio 7 Brasilia 12 Click 16 Gas lamp 17 Mansion 18 Period piece 19 Nineteen to the dozen 20 Tantrist 22 Prehensile 23 Strawberry blonde 26 Aria 27 Dragooing 28 Room service 31 Mummeret 32 Commercial 34 Ink sac 36 Theme 38 Top-drawer 41 Act the fool 43 Cheronese 44 King's Lynn 45 Rattel 47 Thirst 48 Saltarelle 50 Ras Tafari 53 Magnificent 55 Blackamoor 56 Utah 58 Character witness 60 Grand Duchy 62 Unsafely 63 Marriage settlement 67 Barquentine 68 Askance 69 Imitate 70 Ruled 71 Nobleman 72 Press gallery
DOWN: 1 Begin 2 Absentism 3 Grantee 4 Depression 5 Come to light 6 Orate 8 Rondo 9 September 10 Lark 11 Apocalypse 12 Capital transfer tax 13 Iberian 14 Keep the peace 15 Silent film 21 Arrogantly 22 Playmate 24 Angle-iron 25 Concurrent 29 In short 30 Cerebrospinal fluid 33 Chapsticks 35 Thanks for nothing 37 Echoing 39 Fied-4-terre 40 Wake-robins 42 Almighty 46 Atomic number 49 Leaf-stalks 50 Remorseless 51 Antacid case 52 Dirty linen 54 Taiwanese 57 Edgehill 59 Austral 61 Tenner 64 Rende 65 Teeny 66 Limb

Atkinson given little time to save Forest

BY RICHARD HOBSON

RON ATKINSON will begin the unenviable job of trying to keep Nottingham Forest in the FA Carling Premiership on Friday. His appointment as manager until the end of the season was confirmed in a statement to the Stock Exchange yesterday and Peter Shreeves, who watched the 4-0 defeat against Coventry City on Saturday, has already begun employment as his assistant.

The board of the club owning the club has given Atkinson permission to continue a holiday in Barbados to celebrate his wife's 50th birthday today. His position will be reviewed in the summer and he will earn a bonus of £250,000 if Forest avoid relegation. Mick Adams will revert to coaching, having taken temporary charge after the sacking of Dave Bassett last Tuesday.

Although Atkinson will have only £2 million to spend, he will try to make Carilion Palmer, the former England midfielder player, his first signing. Whether Southampton will be prepared to sell him to one of their rivals in the bottom three is another matter.



Atkinson: £2 million budget

However, he inherits his new job seven weeks later in the season with 17 rather than 24 games remaining in which to turn the situation around.

The side has gone 18 games without a win — a record for the Premiership — and sits seven points adrift from safety. Atkinson, 60 in March, begins with a home game against Arsenal on Saturday in a repeat of his first match last season with Wednesday, which ended in a 2-0 success.

Des Lytle, the Forest defender, would have preferred Atkinson to arrive sooner in the week. "If he is going to get us out of this position, we need to start on Saturday and I don't think one day's preparation is enough," Lytle said.

The appointment of Atkinson provoked a mixed reaction among supporters. Andy Lowe, the Editor of the *Tricky Tree* fanzine, said: "It seems to have been conveniently forgotten that while he kept Wednesday up last year he also took them down in 1990. You could bring back Brian Clough in his prime and it would still be too late for this season."

Kidd keen to sign McAteer

BY STEPHEN WOOD

BRIAN KIDD, the Blackburn Rovers manager, is interested in signing Jason McAteer, the Liverpool midfielder player, and the Ewood Park club may make a formal approach for him today.

McAteer has had his opportunities at Liverpool limited this season and it is understood that Blackburn will offer £3.5 million for the Ireland international. They were hopeful that Sebastian Perez would join Liverpool as part of the deal, but the midfielder player wants to return to France.

Blackburn are confident that Tim Sherwood, their captain, will sign a new contract. Sherwood was openly critical of the regime under Roy Hodgson, Kidd's predecessor, and he was on the verge of a move to Tottenham Hotspur. Blackburn are unbeaten under Kidd and Sherwood has always maintained that, as long as the club displays ambition, he will not leave.

Smullic dismissed, page 44

McRae's efforts might prove worthless

BY JEREMY HART

COLIN MCRAE, the former world champion, might not be allowed to score points in the first three rounds of the 1999 world rally championship that starts this weekend in Monte Carlo.

The Briton's new *Marini Ford Focus* is being forced to run in Monte Carlo, Sweden and Kenya with a non-standard water pump, infringing the strict rally regulations.

"If there are no points to be won then there is no point in competing," Malcolm Wilson, whose M-Sport outfit in Cumbria runs Ford's rally team, said. "I'm confident

that we will be allowed to score points, but we won't know until the weekend."

The team is working round the clock to finish their two new rally cars for its world debut. The £1 million Focuses are still in bits at Wilson's Cockermouth base. "If you save the cars now you'd never think we could start on Sunday," Wilson said. "But we will."

McRae is in France carrying out last-minute tests on the Focus that, regardless of its eligibility for points, is unlikely to be competitive for at least three rallies.

Scottish fight to maintain status

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE players of London Scottish, who have been subject all season to speculation that took them as far north as Edinburgh and now links them with a move to Bristol, were told yesterday by their chairman, Tony Tarkis, that he was trying to resolve the economic realities of a sport beset by the problems of professionalism.

"Our rugby team is doing a particularly good job and our players are the company," Tarkis said after weekend revelations that Bristol are prepared to buy 100 per cent of the shareholding of a first-division club to avoid exclusion from any Anglo-Welsh structure that may be agreed for next season. Bristol, who lead the second division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, have talked with Scottish and other first-division strugglers to avoid the consequences of what they perceive to be a plot by "invidious" proprietors of certain first-division clubs.

"We are dealing with the emotions of an amateur rugby club and I'm the first to uphold them," Tarkis said, "but there is a dilemma when the old ethos goes against the modern costs. The London Scottish (public limited) company is only one and a half years old. I have been told we are not members of the Scottish Rugby Union. So it's plain we're not dealing with a 120-year-old club. The real world is pay day."

There has been no debate by London Scottish shareholders on the proposals outlined by Nick de Scossa, the Bristol chief executive, which — if acted upon — would merge the playing strength of both clubs and lose the Exiles' identity. The appeal for Tarkis is in the established rugby population of Bristol set against the rash of rugby clubs competing for spectators in West London.

Bristol's aggressive stance has embarrassed the Rugby Football Union (RFU), given the union's self-imposed deadline of January 31 for next season's structure to be agreed.

The integrity of the existing regulations applies if you are promoted, you go into division one," Terry Burwell, the RFU's operations director, said, but he cannot stipulate the competition into which Bristol will be promoted since talks of a two-division Anglo-Welsh league are ongoing.

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